Hafa Adai!

MVA suspends contract with 2 promo firms. PAGE 2

Bail change denied for man accused of strangling wife. PAGE 5

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Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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CNMI posts 62nd COVID-19 case

AT A GLANCE

As of 8pm, Sept. 17, 2020

GUAM	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	1,966	79	2,045
Recovered	1,312	94	1,406
Active	532	79	611
Deaths	29	2	31
Cumulative Number of Persons Tested			45,007

SAIPAN	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	61	1	62
Deaths	2	0	2
Cumulative Number of Persons Tested			19,345*

*Total count includes the number of persons tested on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. With guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, CHCC has opted to not report active and recovered cases.

Source: Joint Information Center - Guam, Commonwealth Health Care Corp.

By JUSTINE NAUTA
justine_nauta@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Another traveler tested positive for the virus that causes the COVID-19 disease upon arriving on Saipan yesterday, increasing the CNMI's cumulative total to 62 confirmed cases.

According to the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., the individual was identified through travel screening and was confirmed through testing upon arrival. The individual was then brought to the Kanoa Resort in Susupe.

CHCC is already doing contact tracing of those who

See 62nd on Page 4

Mendiola-Long named SBA Phoenix Award Champion

CNMI businessman and Board of Education member Phillip Thomas Mendiola-Long was named yesterday as one of three persons recognized as this year's Phoenix Award Champions by the U.S. Small Business Administration.

Mendiola-Long was chosen as the recipient of the Phoenix Award for Outstanding Contributions to Disaster Recovery by a Volunteer, for disregarding his personal losses to ensure the island's recovery in the aftermath of Super Typhoon Yutu in October 2018.

Mendiola-Long

In addition to Mendiola-Long, this year's other SBA award recipients are Albert Terry Bourque Jr. and Hope Bourque of TLR Homes Vidor in Texas, who rebounded after massive inventory losses from Hurricane Harvey. They are being presented the Phoenix Award for Outstanding Small Business Disaster Recovery.

Deborah A. Lieberman, a

See MENDIOLA-LONG on Page 4

'This is a land taking'

FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Many of those who spoke at yesterday's virtual public meeting by the U.S. National Park Service opposed the findings and recommendations of the Rota Special Resource

» Many oppose NPS Rota National Park

Study to include some Rota sites in the national park system, describing it as a naked land grab.

One of the meeting's speakers, Catherine Flores McCallum, said she believes that if NPS is going to come in, they're taking land on Rota.

See LAND on Page 4

This sketch from the Saipan Zoning Office in 2007 when they published a 10-year plan for the Garapan and Beach Road revitalization shows that, "even then, the vision is for both visitors and residents alike to enjoy Garapan," said OPD director Kodep Ogumoro-Uludong.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

OPD and MVA beef up efforts for a sturdier tourism industry

By BEA CABRERA
beacabrerasaipan@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

Although working separately, the CNMI Office of Planning and Development and Marianas Visitor's Authority have the same bottom line—create strategies and plans to develop, increase and sustain the tourism in the CNMI. This was underscored yesterday at the second of leg of the "Comprehensive Sustainable Development Plan online forum organized by OPD.

According to OPD director Kodep Ogumoro-Uludong, their office has been leading efforts to bring Garapan back to life since being the OPD was created in January 2018. He said the idea is for the Ga-

See OPD on Page 4

COMMUNITY VULNERABILITY

LEGEND:
- **Red:** Least safe
- **Orange**
- **Yellow**
- **Blue**
- **Green:** Safest

Source: Office of the Governor

INSIDE

BUSINESS
Family-friendly Sunday Brunch opens again at Pacific Island Club's Magellan Restaurant.

PAGE 11

NATION
Hurricane Sally kills at least one person and swamped homes, forcing the rescue of hundreds.

PAGE 14

ASIA
Before he got Japan's top job, Yoshihide Suga was known as a "shadow" prime minister.

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Local

MVA contract with 2 promo firms suspended

By JUSTINE NAUTA
justine_nauta@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

When it came down to renew its contract with offshore companies, the Marianas Visitors Authority has decided to suspend two of their offshore contracts due to the lack of funding.

The two contracts that were suspended were AVIAREPS in Taiwan and Access Inc. in Japan. It was learned at the recent MVA board meeting that the Access Inc. contract will expire this month, while the AVIAREPS contract has been suspended since April and will expire at the end of the month.

According to MVA's vice chair Gloria Cavanagh, they're going through with the contract suspension because "there's nothing on the horizon" right now because they want to make sure that MVA has the money to promote the CNMI when it is already feasible to do so.

MVA is looking at creating so-called "travel bubbles"—an exclusive tourism partnership between neighboring or nearby countries, preferably with one that have low COVID-19 rates—and if that idea happens, Cavanagh said that MVA wants to make sure that there's money budgeted in order to cover any expenses and MVA needs to have the means to renew the contract.

Cavanagh says that Taiwan is also looking for countries that have low infection rates, to work out travel bubbles with. "I don't see where we should spend money unless there's something that is such an opportunity, those travel bubbles," she said. "There's no money. The projections that we see for the fiscal year 2021 are dismal. So we want to make sure that we can pay the contracts we enter into."

MVA member Ivan Quichocho supported Cavanagh in with maintaining the suspended status until revenue comes in and tourist arrivals improve.

The AVIAREPS contract was worth to $75,000, Access Inc.'s monthly contract was worth $20,000.

Last June 2019, MVA already canceled its contract with AVIAREPS Marketing Garden for the Korea and Russia marketing but has maintained its contract with the company for Taiwan.

EPA awards NMI $17.5M for projects to protect waters

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is awarding $2.7 billion nationwide in support to water infrastructure via State Revolving Funds, including $17,491,000 million for the CNMI.

SRF funding assists states, tribes and territories with infrastructure projects that help protect surface water and provide safe drinking water to communities across the United States.

"EPA is delivering on its commitment to modernize water infrastructure and improve public health and environmental protections in the Pacific Southwest," said EPA Pacific Southwest Regional Administrator John Busterud. "EPA's $346.8 million contribution to the State Revolving Funds in the region will enable more communities to make the investments needed to ensure safe drinking water and sanitation."

See EPA on Page 4

Child Passenger Safety Week

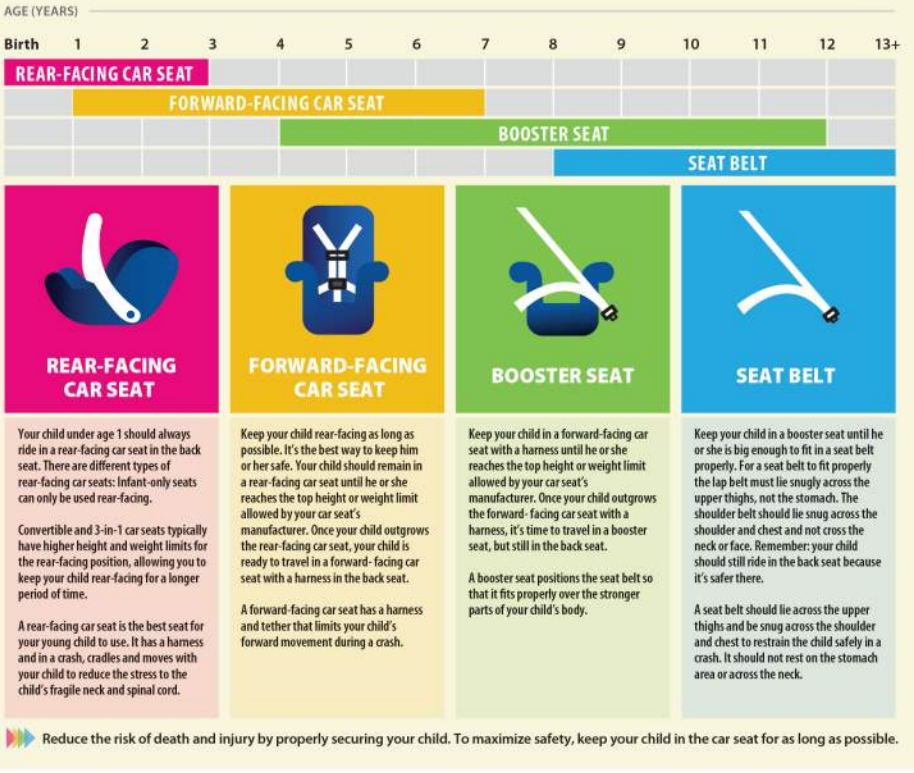
September 20-26, 2020 (Child Passenger Safety Week)
September 26, 2020 (National Seat Check Saturday)

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
OFFICIAL SEAL

Secure their future.

Always seat them in correct car seat.

Car Seat Recommendations: Choosing the Right Seat


AGE (YEARS)
Birth 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13+
REAR-FACING CAR SEAT
FORWARD-FACING CAR SEAT
BOOSTER SEAT
SEAT BELT
REAR-FACING CAR SEAT
Your child under age 1 should always ride in a rear-facing car seat in the back seat. There are different types of rear-facing car seats: Infant-only seats can only be used rear-facing.
Convertible and 3-in-1 car seats typically have higher height and weight limits for the rear-facing position, allowing you to keep your child rear-facing for a longer period of time.
A rear-facing car seat is the best seat for your young child to use. It has a harness and in a crash, cradles and moves with your child to reduce the stress to the child's fragile neck and spinal cord.
FORWARD-FACING CAR SEAT
Keep your child rear-facing as long as possible. It's the best way to keep him or her safe. Your child should remain in a rear-facing car seat until he or she reaches the top height or weight limit allowed by your car seat's manufacturer. Once your child outgrows the rear-facing car seat, your child is ready to travel in a forward- facing car seat with a harness in the back seat.
A forward-facing car seat has a harness and tether that limits your child's forward movement during a crash.
BOOSTER SEAT
Keep your child in a forward-facing car seat with a harness until he or she reaches the top height or weight limit allowed by your car seat's manufacturer. Once your child outgrows the forward- facing car seat with a harness, it's time to travel in a booster seat, but still in the back seat.
A booster seat positions the seat belt so that it fits properly over the stronger parts of your child's body.
SEAT BELT
Keep your child in a booster seat until he or she is big enough to fit in a seat belt properly. For a seat belt to fit properly the lap belt must lie snugly across the upper thighs, not the stomach. The shoulder belt should lie snug across the shoulder and chest and not cross the neck or face. Remember: your child should still ride in the back seat because it's safer there.
A seat belt should lie across the upper thighs and be snug across the shoulder and chest to restrain the child safely in a crash. It should not rest on the stomach area or across the neck.

Reduce the risk of death and injury by properly securing your child. To maximize safety, keep your child in the car seat for as long as possible.

Car crashes are a **leading killer of children** ages 1 to 13.

In crashes from 2011-2015, **3,194 children** (under 13 in cars, SUVs, vans, and pick-ups) were killed. An estimated **599,000 children** under 13 were injured.

That's more than the population of Albuquerque, NM.

In 2015, **662 children** (under 13 in cars, SUVs, vans, and pick-ups) were killed in crashes.

Of those killed, more than **1 in 3** were unrestrained .

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For more information call CNMI Department of Public Safety.
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www.dps.gov.mp

NHTSA
NATIONAL HIGHWAY TRAFFIC SAFETY ADMINISTRATION

POLICE BRIEFS

Woman arrested for alleged domestic violence

Kaipat

A police officer was doing routine patrol through Chalan Kanoa on Saipan last Tuesday, Sept. 15, 2020, at about 11:08am, when a man flagged him for assistance, saying he would like to file a domestic violence complaint against his girlfriend.

The victim alleged that Kimberly Kaipat punched and hit him the day before, that she was angry as she could not find her cellphone charger. Sometime that afternoon, Kaipat allegedly pulled the victim's hair and beat him to the ground as he was intoxicated. Medics checked the victim but he refused to be transported to the hospital for further treatment.

At approximately 11:34am., Kaipat was arrested and brought to Kanoa Resort for clearance before being transported to the Department of Corrections where she was booked and detained.

On Sept. 16, 2020, Superior Court Associate Judge Teresa Kim-Tenorio issued a Rule-5 for Kaipat for the charges of disturbing the peace, assault & battery, and domestic violence with bail set at $5,000. Kaipat was served while still detained at DOC. ***(PR)***

Man arrested for alleged vandalism

Manglona

The CNMI Department of Public Safety received a 911 call last Tuesday, Sept. 15, 2020, at about 2:10am, reporting a criminal complaint in Chalan Kanoa.

At the scene, police met with the caller who stated that their vehicle was damaged by a shirtless male individual, who repeatedly hit the vehicle with a piece of broken concrete before fleeing the scene. The caller showed police a video taken through their camera phone. Police identified the suspect as Lucas Manglona from previous cases. Units in the area were notified to be on the lookout. Later that day at about 4:52pm, Manglona was arrested and brought to Kanoa Resort for clearance before being transported to the DOC where he was booked and detained.

On Sept.r 16, 2020, Superior Court Associate Judge Teresa Kim-Tenorio issued a Rule-5 for Kaipat for the charges of vandalism with bail set at $5,000. Manglona was served while still detained at DOC.

Man arrested for alleged domestic violence

Muña

The CNMI Department of Public Safety received a 911 call on Wednesday, Aug. 12, 2020, at about 9:17am, reporting a domestic violence incident in Garapan.

The victim told police that her boyfriend, Jay Muña, had pushed, hit, and headbutted her earlier. The victim was transported to the Commonwealth Health Center for further treatment before police were able to interview her further. Police were told that Muña had fled the scene in a vehicle before they arrived. Later that day, at approximately 11am, police conducted a violator stop on a vehicle and noticed that Jay Muña was the driver. He was then arrested and brought to Kanoa Resort for clearance before being transported to the Department of Corrections where he was booked and detained. Muña was later released.

On Sept. 15, 2020, Superior Court Associate Judge Kenneth Govendo issued an arrest warrant for Muña for the charges of disturbing the peace, assault & battery, and domestic violence, with bail set at $5,000.

On Sept. 15, 2020, Muña was arrested at a house in Koblerville. He was then brought to Kanoa Resort for clearance before being transported to DOC where he now awaits to appear in court. ***(PR)***

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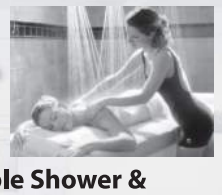

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OPD

From Page 1

rapan Revitalization Task Force to develop what is being called "the Garapan core area" in a way that will not only benefit Saipan but the CNMI as a whole, he said.

"Since we started, we have executed some steps to not only carry on the work that has been ongoing with MVA. …Our deputy director, Chris Concepcion, also continues to lead these efforts with the goal of making Garapan a world-class tourist destination," he added.

Ogumoro-Uludong said they were able to continue past initiatives and efforts of other government agencies like the Saipan Zoning Office, which created a 10-year plan in 2007 to revitalize Garapan and Beach Road. Even then, the vision was for both visitors and residents alike to enjoy Garapan and see it as a welcoming place with many shops for everyone to enjoy, he said.

"We built on that previous works and engaged not only with local partners but also received key assistance from partners outside…turning to the people like [former] Honolulu mayor Mufi Hannemann. …He came to Saipan to see the status of Garapan and, based on his experience, he provided recommendations," he added.

Part of those recommendations include the creation of a Community Improvement District that enables stakeholders in Garapan—both residents and business owners alike—to set up a board that would allow them to manage the area. This system is similar to how Waikiki in Hawaii manages their core tourism areas. The Waikiki Improvement District Association leads and works to enhance Waikiki's physical, economic, and cultural environment. It is dedicated to ensuring the coordinated management and long-term sustainability of Waikiki Beach.

"This is something that the OPD has been working with the Legislature—to set up pertinent legislation that will allow us to not only set up these 'districts' on Saipan but also on Tinian and Rota. …Our office has been working with partners such as Department of Public Works and Commonwealth Utilities Corp. to find resources to light up some of the dark streets as well as address, at that time, the big issue of parking and fire lanes…to find opportunities to allow commercial activity to flow in a way that would benefit everybody," Ogumoro-Uludong said.

OPD is also exploring private and public partnerships, working with the CNMI Hazard Mitigation Program, looking for funding opportunities and exploring ways to get the Federal Emergency Management Agency to support larger items like drainage, particularly within the Garapan core, he added.

On the part of tourism, MVA Product Development manager Tatiana Babauta said their plan for the next 10 years includes honoring Chamorro and Carolinian heritage, providing natural and cultural resources, providing authentic and memorable visitor experiences, offering Northern Island travel packages and excursions, growing arrivals and average visitor expenditures, increasing diversity, promoting unique attractions and enhancing tourist and historical sites—all intended "to ensure a premiere destination experience for visitors that nurtures local culture and resources while supporting a growing and diversified economy."

"To achieve these, research will play a vital part. …We also intend to develop marketing programs that will…attract visitors to the CNMI," she added.

For the short term, like in the next two years, Babauta said that MVA will work with shopping centers and retailers by 2021 to sell local art and crafts at their establishments; work with hotels, restaurants, and other establishments to include the local cuisine in their menu; work with 500 Sails to create a program for visitors to travel to Managaha Island, Tinian, Rota, and even the Northern Islands using traditional canoes; to create programs in cooperation with CNMI sports associations to encourage 'sport tourism'; to host the first CNMI Governor's Tourism Conference; and to work with hotels, businesses and community groups to identify locations, dates and time where visitors can experience local culture and cuisine by 2022.

"We need to incorporate economic, social and environmental aspects in the tourism industry. ...When the tourism industry is successful , we can provide jobs , a good tax base, and diverse customer base that provides a healthy level of profit for businesses, supported by convenient, affordable transportation that promotes interisland travel opportunities," Babauta added.

The third leg of the CNMI Office of Planning and Development will be held today starting at 8am. For more information, go to their Facebook page: CNMI Office of Planning and Development.

LAND

From Page 1

"First of all, this is a land taking," she said. "It's an outright land taking. Our lives matter. Get off my land. I've been saying that for years. I don't want to see my children have to fight for their land."

McCallum said she's already 65 years old now and that she's been protecting CNMI lands since she was in her 20's and that she's tired. "I'm getting really tired but I don't want to see my children have to fight for their land, because this is an outright unjust taking of our property. This whole thing boils down to the militarization of our whole island of the Marianas," she said.

A former police officer, Joel Charfauros said he noticed in one of the slides in the NPS presentation of the study that indicates that 52% of the limestone forests would cover the island of Rota. Charfauros asked how NPS would deal with this with land owners who have property within 52% of the limestone forests.

National Park Service project manager Jonathan Gervais, who led the discussion and presented the preliminary findings of the Rota Special Resource Study, explained that NPS developed three alternative concepts for these sites: Option 1 is to continue the current management by the Commonwealth and Rota municipal government agencies; while Options 2 and 3 are for the CNMI and the Rota municipal governments to enter into a management agreement with NPS for a Chamorro National Historical Park (about 526 hectares), or for a Chamorro, limestone forest, and World War II sites National Historic Park (about 1,780 hectares).

All lands would remain in Commonwealth ownership consistent with Article 12.

Gervais said the total amount of limestone forests and archeological sites on Rota covers almost 11,000 acres but "we're not proposing 52%. That's too much."

He said and that, in one proposal, they're proposing just 4,400 acres and the other alternative is just 1,300 acres. He pointed out that their biggest proposal covers about 4,400 acres. The number 52%, he explained, was meant to signify the full amount of limestone forests on the island.

Gervais said they tried to concentrate on public lands and did their best to identify areas that are public lands. "There are some areas that are a little tricky on Rota in terms of what's public and what's private," he said.

Gervais said they were required by law to do this study. He said the law told them to look at the prehistoric, historic sites, and the limestone forests.

War in the Pacific and National Historical Park and American Memorial Park superintendent Barbara Alberti said that yesterday's meeting had a great turnout. She thanked Rota Mayor Efraim M. Atalig and Mayor's Office public information officer Ivan Mereb for setting up the location at a social hall on Rota, where people came in and voiced their concerns.

"I really think that this conversation has opened up a lot of good questions and ideas that the National Park Service will take into consideration. It's been interesting to hear the viewpoints," she said.

Alberti echoed Crispin Ogo in stating that the best way to get people's voices heard is to write comments. She also encouraged the people to work with Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) on legislation.

"We will try to capture as many of the comments and questions from the chat, but also we've been recording this so that we can capture comments as best as we can, for what people said, but still providing them in writing is even much better," she added.

The next meeting will be tomorrow, Saturday.

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

MENDIOLA-LONG

From Page 1

Montgomery County Commissioner in Dayton, Ohio, who swiftly responded to the area's needs following a tornado, is being honored with the Phoenix Award for Outstanding Contributions to Disaster Recovery by a Public Official.

SBA announced the 2020 National Small Business Week Phoenix Award winners for their outstanding and inspiring resilience in the aftermath of devastating disasters.

The virtual National Small Business Week event, rescheduled from May due to the coronavirus pandemic, will be held on Sept. 22-24. This year's National Small Business Week activities will include numerous educational panels providing retooling and innovative practices for entrepreneurs as our nation's small businesses look to pivot and recover toward a stronger economy.

Since 1998, the SBA has presented Phoenix Awards to business owners, public officials, and volunteers who displayed selflessness, ingenuity and tenacity in the aftermath of a disaster, while contributing to the rebuilding of their communities.

In explaining its choice of Mendiola-Long, SBA said that Super Typhoon Yutu hit Tinian on Oct. 24, 2018, with the storm's 180 mile-per-hour winds severely damaging Mendiola-Long's gas station, one of only two on the island. The storm destroyed more than 3,000 homes, and Mendiola-Long's residence suffered extensive damages.

"Despite his losses, [Mendiola-Long] decided to share his remaining resources to support the island's recovery. He returned to the gas station to find that the winds had ripped out the only two gas pumps from their foundations.

"Within 24 hours, [Mendiola-Long] and his staff had scavenged the island, found a hand pump, and built an extension line into the underground gas tank. The team could now begin pumping fuel for first responders, law enforcement officials, and city agencies involved in the recovery effort. He also organized a volunteer effort to distribute generators donated by a local charity to disaster survivors.

"[Mendiola-Long] reached out to Guam business contacts and gathered food, water, tents, first-aid kits, and other survival necessities for the disaster survivors. He used his office as a supply distribution center that stayed open from 8am to 5pm daily. [Mendiola-Long] drove to Tinian's hardest-hit areas, personally delivering relief goods to those in desperate need.

"Using social media, [Mendiola-Long] reached out to business contacts, family, and friends in Hawaii, Guam, Nevada, and Texas and asked for donations. His efforts netted 20 boxes of supplies and $15,000 in cash for the beleaguered island residents," the SBA statement said. ***(Saipan Tribune)***

62ND

From Page 1

were in close contact with the newly confirmed case; that includes passengers on the same flight, close family members, and friends.

In an interview with CHCC chief executive officer Esther Muña, she said that a COVID-19 vaccine that is being promoted as becoming available on Nov. 1 doesn't necessarily mean it will be "available." It's just a start, she said, which means that there's a process on who's a priority.

Muña stated that they're working on what's safe and effective and that vaccines will be distributed first to healthcare workers and the most vulnerable populations who are identified as a priority, and it will only be after that when it will be distributed to everyone else. Right now, Muña said there are still talks if people who have already tested positive will receive a vaccine.

Muña said that CHCC is also participating in weekly meetings with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and these provide CHCC a sense of direction of what's going to come next.

Saipan won't be the only one to receive the vaccine, Muña said. Tinian and Rota will also be receiving it. CHCC is still in the planning stage and preparing for when they're ready to distribute it once it becomes widely available.

Right now, mass testing in the CNMI has been temporarily suspended until further notice.

As of Sept. 14, 2020, the CNMI has collected 19,345 specimens for COVID-19 tests on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. This is approximately 34% of the CNMI's population.

EPA

From Page 2

EPA is awarding SRF funds to the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. for fiscal year 2020 as a consolidated grant for clean water and drinking water infrastructure improvements in the CNMI.

In 2020, EPA awarded $1.6 billion nationwide in new federal grant funding for the Clean Water State Revolving Fund, including $4,156,000 to assist the CNMI. This funding is available for a wide range of water infrastructure projects, including modernizing aging wastewater infrastructure, implementing water reuse and recycling and addressing stormwater.

EPA also awarded $1.07 billion across the country in new federal grant funding for the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund, including $13,335,000 to assist the CNMI. This funding can be used to help drinking water systems install treatment for contaminants, improve distribution systems by removing lead service lines and strengthen system resiliency to natural disasters such as floods.

Under the CWSRF and DWSRF programs, EPA provides funding to all 50 states and Puerto Rico to capitalize SRF loan programs. The states and Puerto Rico contribute an additional 20 percent to match the federal funding. U.S. territories receive funding as grants. Funding also includes Additional Supplemental Appropriations for Disaster Relief Act funds for wastewater treatment works and drinking water facilities impacted by Super Typhoon Yutu in the CNMI.

For more information, visit https://www.epa.gov/dwsrf and https://www.epa.gov/cwsrf. ***(PR)***

TRUE COLORS
Thanks to the return of heavy rainfall in the CNMI, the Gov. Eloy S. Inos Peace Park is now in a much greener state than in the last few months and back when the park project was completed back in 2017.

NEIL FAMA

Bail change denied for man accused of strangling wife

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Superior Court has denied the request of a man accused of strangling his wife to modify his bail because he had no third-party custodian.

Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph Camacho denied Guangchao Li's request to be released at a bail hearing last Monday. Camacho wanted supervision or monitoring and a third-party custodian.

Assistant public defender Karie Comstock, Li's court-appointed lawyer, told the court that Li recently lost his tour guide occupation due to the pandemic, warranting a reduced bail. Comstock also argued that Li has his own place and does not stay with the victim.

Assistant attorney general Steve Kessel opposed the bail modification request. Kessel noted that the maximum penalty for strangulation is seven years' imprisonment; one year imprisonment for assault and battery; and six months' imprisonment for assault and disturbing the peace.

Camacho maintained the $10,000 cash bail initially imposed by Superior Court associate judge Teresa Kim-Tenorio for the seriousness of the charges and remanded Li back to the Department of Corrections.

Li, 35, was charged with assault and battery, strangulation, assault, and disturbing the peace.

Li was ordered to return to court for a preliminary hearing on Sept. 23 at 10am and for arraignment on Sept. 28 at 9am.

According to court documents, police received a cut-off call from a distressed female caller screaming for help on the telephone. Police later learned that prior to the incident, the victim's husband, Li, asked for help to unlock his cell phone. The victim said she unlocked his cell phone and she and Li then started to go through his cell phone.

She said Li later grabbed her right arm tightly and told her that if she had another man, he would kill her.

She then told Li that she wanted to leave but he pushed her down on the floor, allegedly punching her on her right shoulder before wrapping both of his hands tightly around her neck while holding her to the ground.

The victim told police she has been separated from Li for over a year because of past incidents where he also harmed her.

Guam is granted $112K more to develop capacity of NGOs, protect 2 Guam birds

WASHINGTON, D.C.—An additional $112,000 in fiscal year 2020 grant funding has been awarded to Guam through the U.S. Department of the Interior's Office of Insular Affairs' Technical Assistance Program. The funds will provide training and capacity development for non-profit organizations in Guam and repair the captive-breeding facility for two of Guam's indigenous birds that are now extinct in the wild. The new funds are on top of the nearly $3 million in Technical Assistance Program fiscal year 2020 funds announced for Guam earlier this year.

A total of $80,000 will be used by the Guam non-profit organization *Mañe'lu,* the Micronesian Resource Center One-Stop Shop, to sponsor and expand leadership training and education opportunities necessary to strengthen the capacity of nonprofit organizations in Guam that work closely with freely associated state and Chamorro populations, including their own staff. Two such non-profit organizations that work with *Mañe'lu* are *Victim Advocates Reaching Out*, which works to provide crisis response to victims of domestic violence and sexual abuse, and *West Care Pacific Islands*, which trains youth-serving organizations about trauma-informed care, teen coping, and positive youth development.

A total of $32,000 will go to the Guam Department of Agriculture to be used to repair and replace fencing around the captive-breeding facility for two of Guam's indigenous birds: the Guam Rail (*Hypotaenidia owstoni*), or the *ko'ko'* as known in Chamorro, and the Guam Kingfisher (*Todiramphus cinnamominus*), or *sihek.* The fencing will keep out snakes and feral animals to help ensure continued breeding of these two rare birds, indigenous to Guam, that no longer exist in the wild. ***(PR)***

1 of 2 who allegedly burglarized govt office is out

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Superior Court granted Tuesday the early release request of one of two men who were arrested for allegedly breaking into a government office in As Perdido.

Superior Court Associate Judge Teresa Kim-Tenorio granted the request of Maynard Dela Cruz to be released to his aunt as his third-party custodian.

Dela Cruz, 29, along with Rollin Ulechong Skang, 20, are accused by the government of burglarizing the Division of Parks and Recreation office in As Perdido.

Dela Cruz, through Chief Public Defender Douglas Hartig, asked the court to reduce his previous cash bail from $20,000 to $5,000. Hartig also requested the court to release Dela Cruz to his aunt after posting 10% of the $5,000 bail. Kim-Tenorio granted the requests and ordered Dela Cruz's release.

Dela Cruz's co-defendant, Skang, did not make a similar request and bail modification and remains in jail.

According to *Saipan Tribune* archives, police received a call on Aug. 17 regarding a burglary and theft of a government office where five brush cutters, a battery pack, a blower, and a container of gas were reported missing.

The Theft Apprehension Select Coalition Task Force of the Department of Public Safety identified Dela Cruz and Skang as the alleged perpetrators of the burglary after an informant gave information about persons selling equipment that had been reported stolen.

Dela Cruz and Skang were both charged with conspiracy, burglary, and theft. Both are scheduled to return to court for an arraignment on Sept. 28 at 9am before Superior Court presiding judge Roberto C. Naraja.

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Marshall Islands local govt awarded $1.1M grant

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The U.S. Department of the Interior's Office of Insular Affairs has awarded $1,107,654 in fiscal year 2020 grant funding to the Republic of the Marshall Islands through the OIA Technical Assistance Program.

This funding will support the Kili-Bikini-Ejit local government's efforts to build a sea wall on Ejit Island, Majuro Atoll, and provide equipment and supplies for the health clinic on Kili Island.

Of the total amount awarded, $682,654 will be used to build a 2,300-foot reinforced concrete sea wall along the coastline of low-lying Ejit Island, which is part of Majuro Atoll.

The sea wall will protect more than 300 people of Bikini who live on Ejit Island and whose community includes a school, a church, a community center, residential housing, and family graves. Much of the coastline and the infrastructure has already experienced degradation, erosion, and flooding due to extreme weather events, of which the most recent occurred in November 2019.

» Funds for sea wall on Ejit and health clinic on Kili to help protect and save lives

The proposed sea wall will be similar to other sea walls currently in use elsewhere in Majuro Atoll and on Ebeye Island, Kwajalein Atoll, which have been constructed to protect communities from the sea, especially during extreme weather events.

The proposed sea wall on Ejit will mitigate not only flooding but also the collateral damages caused in terms of disease, loss of school time, work time, agricultural loss, and the cost of rebuilding damaged structures.

A total of $425,000 will be used on Kili Island to purchase medical equipment and supplies for the existing health clinic, which supports a population of more than 500 people of Bikini.

The KBE local government will provide a match of $725,000 of its own money to expand the clinic, building an emergency room, a laboratory, and an X-ray and delivery room in a mini-hospital type setting.

The OIA TAP grant will be used to acquire medical equipment and supplies to improve and expand healthcare services in the new setting.

The proposed expansion of the Kili health clinic will be coordinated with the Section 177 Healthcare Program provide improved health care and emergency service options in a timely manner to the residents of Kili Island, where currently only rudimentary health services are available.

Many critical health situations have cost the lives of those on Kili unable to receive adequate preventive or sometimes urgent health care while awaiting a medivac from Kili to the Marshall Islands' principal hospital in Majuro. The proposed expanded clinic will serve help improve health care and save lives on Kili. ***(PR)***

Heavy rain prompted flood advisory

The CNMI Homeland Security and Emergency Management Agency issued a flood advisory yesterday to warn the public of possible flooding due to heavy rainfall yesterday morning.

Based on information received from the National Weather Service in Tiyan, Guam, the CNMI Emergency Operations Center-State Warning Point said that doppler radar indicated heavy rain due to thunderstorms. This will cause urban and small stream flooding in low-lying areas of Tinian and Saipan.

Some locations that will experience flooding include Garapan, Dandan, China Town, Tanapag, As Mahetog, Koblerville, San Jose (Tinian municipality), San Antonio, Chalan Kanoa I, Chalan Kanoa II, Chalan Kanoa III, San Roque, Kagman, Chalan Kanoa IV, Kagman III, Gualo Rai, Afetnas, Chalan Piao, Fananganan, and Chalan Laulau.

The public is being advised to turn around when encountering flooded roads. Most flood deaths occur in vehicles. Saipan residents are urged to be mindful of the precautionary/preparedness actions and to stay informed on the latest statements and advisories which will be available through local media sources or call CNMI EOC State Warning Point at 237-8000 or 664-8000, and for the Northern Islands to contact CNMI EOC State Warning Point at high frequency single side band radio on frequency 5.205.0. ***(PR)***

Mass testing temporarily suspended until further notice

The Governor's COVID-19 Task Force announced yesterday that the CNMI mass testing—called the Community-Based Testing Initiative—will be temporarily suspended until further notice.

As of Sept. 14, 2020, the CNMI has collected 19,345 specimens for COVID-19 tests on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. This is approximately 34% of the CNMI's population.

The public is being encouraged to continue to follow updates and announcements from the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. on the next phase of community-based testing.

The task force and CHCC remind the public that getting tested for COVID-19 does not improve response to the illness, nor does it reduce the risk of contracting or transmitting the disease. People who are tested and have a negative result are still vulnerable to the virus. Residents within the Marianas are encouraged to practice the 3 W's: "Wear a mask, wash your hands, and watch your distance."

For information on the CNMI's response to COVID-19, contact the Governor's COVID- 19 Task Force hotline numbers at 287-0046, 287-0489, and 287-1089. ***(PR)***

IN U.S. NEWS & WORLD REPORT

UOG is a top-ranked college for social mobility, among the best in the West

The University of Guam is ranked a "Top Performer on Social Mobility" and one of the "Best Regional Universities" in the West in the 2021 Best Colleges Rankings released Tuesday by U.S. News & World Report.

UNIVERSITY OF GUAM

The University of Guam has been ranked by U.S. News & World Report as a "Top Performer on Social Mobility" and one of the "Best Regional Universities" in the West, according to its 2021 Best Colleges Rankings released Tuesday.

U.S. News & World Report ranked UOG 46th as a "Top Performer on Social Mobility" among Western regional universities. UOG was also ranked 42nd among the top public institutions in the West and 84th among all Western regional universities. Regional universities are those that offer a full range of undergraduate programs and provide master's level degrees.

"The U.S. News & World Report lists are among the most widely used and quoted college rankings nationwide, so being included really puts the University of Guam on the map and among great company," UOG president Thomas W. Krise said.

The Best Colleges rankings include all colleges and universities in the nation that are accredited, four-year institutions with more than 250 students. To be ranked, schools must also have received a minimum of 10 peer ratings from other universities in the list's annual survey.

Top performer on social mobility

The "Top Performers on Social Mobility" list measures how well schools graduated students who received federal Pell grants. These students belong to households typically earning less than $50,000 per year, with most Pell grant households earning less than $20,000. UOG has a high percentage of Pell-eligible students at 59%—compared to an average of 47% among other universities that made the social mobility list—and graduates a high number of Pell recipients within six years in relation to non-Pell recipients.

"This is a great accolade for UOG," Krise said. "It means we're having a more significant impact on our graduates' lives than most regional universities, helping them achieve more despite having financial challenges."

Small class size, high retention rate

The main factors in the overall ranking methodology are graduation and retention rates, academic reputation among institutional peers, and faculty statistics. UOG is most competitive in the ranking criteria when it comes to class size, with nearly 60% of UOG's classes having fewer than 20 students, versus 51% on average for other Western regional universities, and a student-to-faculty ratio of 16:1, which is the category average. UOG is also competitive in its first-year retention rate—posting 75% versus the Western regional university average of 73%. UOG's retention rate has been higher than 73% the past three years.

"Being a top performer in social mobility and being ranked among the best institutions in the West shows that UOG is, indeed, 'transforming lives and advancing communities'—the vision statement developed under UOG's five-year Para Hulo' plan," said senior vice president and provost Anita Borja Enriquez. "This vision will remain central to UOG's strategic intent going forward."

ON THE NET

- See full report at https://www.usnews.com/best-colleges/university-of-guam-3935/overall-rankings.

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

AMENDED REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
PROJECT NO. CPA-RFP-007-2020

FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE ECHO DOCK AT THE PORT OF SAIPAN

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (Authority) is inviting qualified developers and their development teams to submit sealed proposal, subject to the terms and conditions of this Request for Proposal (the "RFP"), and other contract provisions, for the Development of the Echo Dock situated north of the Port of Saipan. The Executive Director hereby determines that the use of an Invitation for Bid is neither practical nor advantageous to the Authority because the Authority wishes to acquire services and products that cannot be evaluate by cost alone (NMIAC §40-50-225(a)). This RFP is issued pursuant to Chapter 40-50 of the Northern Mariana Islands Administrative Code (the "NMIC"). Title 40, including chapter 40-50-225, Request for Proposals, is applicable to the process followed by the RFP.

The RFP Package is available beginning August 27, 2020, at the Authority's Accounting Office, 2nd Floor, Departure Terminal Building, Saipan International Airport upon payment of an administrative fee of $200.00 payable to the "Commonwealth Ports Authority". ***Payment shall be by cash or certified cashier's check.***

The Authority will hold a briefing for interested parties at 10:00 a.m. on September 16, 2020, to explain the Authority's development objectives, the RFP process, and to answer questions. The meeting will be held at the Authority's Seaport Conference Room, George Fleming Building. All potential applicants are encouraged to attend. All proposers are requested to pay attention to the following significant dates and times:

Deadline to submit Notice of Intent	September 28, 2020 (4:00 PM)
Deadline to submit Statement of Qualifications	October 13, 2020 (4:00 PM)
Notification of qualified applicants of the RFP	October 28, 2020
Deadline for RFP submission	November 30, 2020 (4:00 PM)

Qualified proposers shall submit their proposals sealed and marked on the cover package outside as follows: "Proposal for the Development of the Echo Dock, Saipan (RFP-007-20). Five (5) hard copies and one CD of the proposal must be submitted no later than ***4:00 p.m. Local Time, November 30, 2020***, to the Office of the Executive Director at the Saipan International Airport. Proposals submitted by facsimile (fax) transmission will not be considered. Any proposals received after the proposal submittal deadline shall be returned to the proposer unopened.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) reserves the right to reject any or all proposals submitted if sufficient justification exist that awarding the project would not be in the best interest of the CPA.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY.

/s/ CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

Date:_____

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID
DPW/SWMD20-RFP-007

SUBMISSION DATE: October 20, 2020 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"Material Recovery and Recycling Operations Saipan"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE TECHNICAL SERVICES DIVISION, DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS, LOCATED ON SECOND FLOOR, OLEAI JOETEN COMMERCIAL CENTER, SAN JOSE, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

A PRE-PROPOSAL Conference is scheduled on **September 29, 2020 AT 9:00 A.M., LOCAL TIME** AT THE Solid Waste Transfer Station Conference Room Lower Base.

QUESTIONS MUST BE MADE IN WRITING TO Blas T. Mafnas, Acting Director of Solid Waste Management Division **NO LATER THAN THE CLOSE OF BUSINESS October 8, 2020**. THESE QUESTIONS WILL BE ANSWERED WITHIN THREE (3) BUSINESS DAYS AND WILL BE SHARED WITH ALL PROPOSERS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ PETER P. CAMACHO
ACTING SECRETARY OF PUBLIC WORKS

/S/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON
ACTING DIRECTOR, P&S

USVI awarded $237.8K so it could buy 2 fire trucks

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The U.S. Department of the Interior's Office of Insular Affairs has awarded the U.S. Virgin Islands government an additional $237,796 in fiscal year 2020 Technical Assistance Program grant funding. The funding will be used to buy two new fire rescue trucks and is provided in addition to approximately $3.9 million in funding announced earlier this year for the territory.

"Emergency responders and firefighters in St. Croix and in St. Thomas will now be better equipped to provide emergency response and fire rescue services in the territory," said Douglas W. Domenech, Interior Assistant Secretary, Insular and International Affairs.

The new fire rescue trucks is for the VI Fire Service, a career fire department that provides wildland and structural fire suppression, rescue services, vehicle extrication, basic medical first response, and hazmat response for the entire territory. The VI Fire Service has 242 active firefighters who provide emergency services to over 106,000 year-round residents and roughly 15,000 additional seasonal vacationers each year. The current vehicles in the fleet are not equipped to carry the necessary tools for emergency services. The two new fire trucks, one for St. Croix and the other for St. Thomas, will help the first responders be more effective in their response to emergencies.

These funds are provided in addition to the $3 million in Technical Assistance Program fiscal year 2020 funds and the nearly $900,000 in Maintenance Assistance Program fiscal year 2020 funding, both announced for the U.S. Virgin Islands earlier this year. ***(PR)***

MCS Student Council is ready to lead

Mendoza

Youn

Ayuyu

Woodruff

Poon

Mount Carmel School's 2020-2021 Student Council officers are ready to lead the new school year with ambitious goals and a commitment to serving their peers and the broader community. This year's officers include Mount Carmel School Student Council president Maria Ayuyu, vice president Mikee Mendoza, secretary Katherine Avendano-Woodruff, treasurer Brian Youn, and moderator Skyler Poon.

Unlike previous STUCO officers, this year's student leaders are faced with a challenging task, to promote safe student engagement during a global pandemic.

What distinguishes this year's student officers is their experience and journey with Mount Carmel School during unprecedented natural disasters and recovery. Through their shared experience, the officers have all made a commitment to exemplify what it means to be "Knight Strong" through faith, compassion, and hard work.

"I decided to run for Student Council president because I believe the student voice is more important than ever," said Ayuyu. "Everything we know about student activity and engagement has changed because of the pandemic. With how much our school has had to adjust, I know it is important that our student body takes a more active role in redefining what student engagement needs to be during this pandemic alongside our school administrators."

Mendoza added, "We know how important it is to model a positive attitude and help motivate students during these difficult times. I firmly believe that school spirit is vital to promote student success. Student activities might not be the same for the rest of this school year, but we're determined to help our students create or implement new ways to engage with each other safely."

"All student meetings must now proceed virtually this school year," said Avendano-Woodruff. "That being said, accurate and organized information must continually be [upheld] to promote safety. One of my goals as secretary is to help my peers also develop their own organizational and communication skills in order to adapt to this new norm of communication."

Youn is determined to help manage STUCO's budget. "One of the challenges our student clubs and homerooms will face is creating new ways to fundraise. We're certain that our students will need a lot of guidance from us and especially our school administrators."

"As a student council, our goal is to make this school year as engaging as possible regardless of the present circumstances we face," said Poon. "Since many of us are redefining how we lead as students, my goal is to also help students regain their confidence as leaders so our overall focus is readjusting to these new norms as critical thinkers and problem solvers." Mount Carmel School's Student Council is the primary student governing body of the school that leads, represents, and advocates on behalf of students and the Knight Family.

The council coordinates student spirit events like pep rallies, facilitates student activity planning for fundraisers and other events, and hosts discussions and deliberations among student representatives from 7th through 12th grades on a wide variety of issues. The council president is also a member of the school's leadership team, serving as the voice of students in managing and planning all aspects of school operations. ***(PR)***

Torres wants to make sure Medicaid's funding concerns are addressed

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres wants to make sure that the funding concerns of the Commonwealth Medicaid Agency are addressed so the CNMI will be able to tap the maximum available amount of federal funding for the program.

When asked at a radio news briefing Friday if there is an oversight on the administration's part pertaining to CMA's budget proposal, Torres said they are looking at other funding sources.

"We are working now to make sure that we safeguard the Medicaid program," he said.

The governor said they will maximize all efforts in this matter so that the CNMI, as it had done in the past, does not lose any federal funding.

Torres said he spoke to CMA director Helen C. Sablan in the past and that he and the administration will make sure that Sablan's concerns will be addressed.

House Ways and Means Committee chair Rep. Ivan A. Blanco (R-Saipan) recently stated that they were not aware of CMA's funding concerns during their deliberation on the fiscal year 2021 budget bill.

"Had we received the Medicaid letter during Ways and Means deliberation, we would have addressed the issue," he said.

Blanco said the House passed the fiscal year 2021 budget, which includes funding for Medicaid, as proposed by the Torres administration. "As the budget is still in the review process, we anticipate to work with Medicaid on its concerns as indicated in its letter," Blanco added.

Sablan reported a 32.7% increase in Medicaid beneficiaries from February to July 10, 2020, and she expressed fear that the CNMI may lose millions of dollars in health care funding if the government fails to adequately fund the program.

In a letter dated Aug. 25, 2020, Sablan informed Fiscal Affairs Committee chair Sen. Jude U. Hofschneider (R-Tinian) that they have been working very hard to ensure that the program complies with the requirements of Title IX and will meet the expectations of the U.S. Congress and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.

Sablan said the House proposed budget of $2.71 million will result in a shortfall of $6.21 million for the CNMI Medicaid program, as it is required to provide a local match to federal Medicaid funding.

She said they do not believe that it is in the interest of the CNMI to lose millions of dollars in health care funding, especially in an economic time when federal expenditures are one of the few sources of economic input in the economy.

Sablan said the requested funding is required to make reasonable and appropriate progress to administer the program and submit data and reports to the federal government.

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-20-029

TINIAN MAUI WELL II REHABILITATION PROJECT
(W17-054)

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the Tinian Maui Well II Rehabilitation Project in Tinian, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The project consists, in general installation of a new pump control panel, variable frequency drive (VFD), flow meter, installation of gate valve assembly, pressure gauges, air relief valve, check valves, interior/exterior painting of the facility and other related work. The work shall be done in accordance with the Project Plans and Specifications and without disruption to the daily operation of the water system.

This project is funded by a grant from the United States of Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of the approval for project award from USEPA.

CUC requires the Project to be completed in **240 calendar days** from date of award of contract.

Prospective Bidders for this IFB must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $200.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by a Site Visit is scheduled on **September 24, 2020 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **"CUC-IFB-20-029, *Tinian Maui Well II Rehabilitation Project"***, to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on October 22, 2020**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement the form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. **Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.**

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

A *Bid Guarantee* of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The bid guarantee may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States, Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A *Payment Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent and a *Performance Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). **Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.**

All bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All questions or request for clarification regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on September 30, 2020** to Mr. Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email – manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Mr. Joel Puyat, CUC Water/Wastewater Engineer – via email joel.puyat@cucgov.org and Ms. Marcela Tenorio, Procurement & Supply, Purchasing Technician – via email marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY BOYER SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
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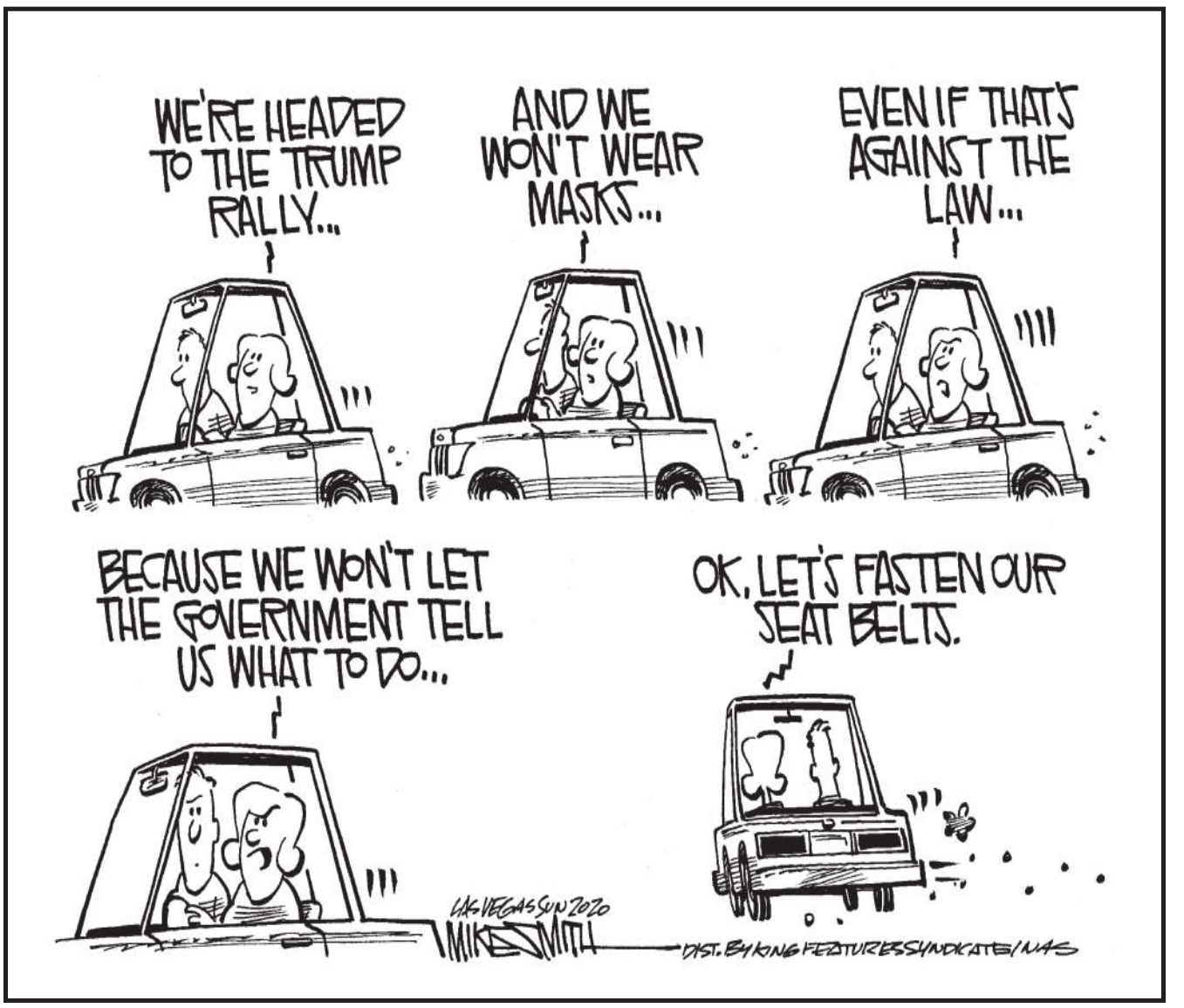

WE'RE HEADED TO THE TRUMP RALLY...
AND WE WON'T WEAR MASKS...
EVEN IF THAT'S AGAINST THE LAW...
BECAUSE WE WON'T LET THE GOVERNMENT TELL US WHAT TO DO...
OK, LET'S FASTEN OUR SEAT BELTS.
LAS VEGAS SUN 2020
MIKE SMITH
DIST. BY KING FEATURES SYNDICATE/NAS

EDITORIAL

US should participate in global vaccine agreements

The White House is letting petty politics squander an opportunity to show global leadership in the pandemic.

By refusing to participate in a multinational alliance working on ways to share and distribute vaccines where most needed, the U.S. is not only coming across as selfish, but it is creating a leadership void that may be filled by rivals.

At least 78 developed countries and economies are participating in the alliance, called Covax. Together, they are working on ways to allocate coronavirus vaccines.

Multilateral agreements are needed to limit hoarding and ensure supplies are deployed fairly and in ways that have the maximum benefit tamping down COVID-19. Developed countries have entered contracts locking up much of the early production, increasing the need for sharing agreements and to prevent price spikes.

Nations must take a holistic view of what's at stake. If successful vaccines go mostly to people and places with wealth and power, instead of those who need it most to stop the spread, the pandemic and economic crises will drag on longer.

President Donald Trump set back efforts to cooperate when he announced recently that the U.S. will not participate in Covax because the World Health Organization is involved.

Trump has scapegoated the WHO, accusing it of being too cozy with China and halting U.S. support of the organization.

Yet spurning Covax creates a leadership void China or other rivals could potentially fill. It also failed to distract from Trump's profound failure to promptly and decisively respond after learning about the virus and danger it posed.

All countries have a shared interest in resolving the pandemic and must collaborate, philanthropists Bill and Melinda Gates said in a new report on how the crisis has halted global progress on multiple fronts.

"There is no such thing as a national solution to a global crisis," they wrote. "All countries must work together to end the pandemic and begin rebuilding economies. The longer it takes us to realize that, the longer it will take (and the more it will cost) to get back on our feet."

Historically, the U.S. has been a leader in global health and vaccine programs, sharing expertise and wealth, asserting leadership and building enormous goodwill.

In recent decades that role has been complemented by the Gates Foundation and its crusade to save lives and rid the world of scourges like malaria. It's a founding funder of two organizations leading the Covax effort, the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness in Oslo and Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, in Geneva.

The U.S. continues to be a major supporter of Gavi and its global vaccination programs. That makes the Covax decision seem more like pique than thoughtful policy.

Covax may not succeed, with or without the U.S., leaving the world without an agreement on COVID-19 vaccine allocation.

That doesn't bode well for quickly ending the pandemic, or for the world's ability to solve other big, urgent challenges

See US on Next Page

Climate change is manmade evil

By ANN MCFEATTERS
Tribune News Service

Ann McFeatters is an op-ed columnist for Tribune News Service*. Readers may send her email at amcfeatters@nationalpress.com.*

SEATTLE – If you are at all claustrophobic, seeing nothing but white smoke from the windows is unsettling. If you go outside, even a precious N95 mask unearthed from a dusty pile of paint cans and brushes is insufficient. Your lungs hurt. Your eyes burn.

Worse, just a few miles away, is the unending destruction. Houses evaporated, leaving asymmetrical piles of ash. Hulks of cars not yet paid off beyond salvage. The forlorn, black hulk of a child's tricycle, seat gone, overturned on its side. The sounds of inconsolable sobbing from parents who shudder at what comes next. The horror as realization dawns that some neighbors did not make it.

Just weeks ago there was a kind of weird jubilation that even amid the heartbreak of the pandemic, the air seemed cleaner, the rivers more sparkling. Climate change couldn't be that bad if a few weeks of shutdown showed such promise for the environment.

That hope, like trees and homes in California, Oregon, Idaho and Washington, has vanished. Climate change is manmade evil.

Flooding in the East Coast. Powerful hurricanes, far more dangerous than a few years ago, hurling at us so fast we are running out of names for them. Dozens of uncontained fires incinerating whole towns. Elsewhere, drought destroying more farmers' desperate plans for survival.

When Donald Trump smirked at the California scientists earnestly warning of the peril of climate change and said that "it will get cooler," it was a taunt that showed he does not even understand what he is mocking. Global warming is real and is making the Earth hotter and we haven't even figured out all the ramifications.

But climate change, the better term, is much more frightening. It is making climate far more extreme. Snow storms measured in feet, not inches. Drought that consumes crops for miles, year after year. Slower, wetter storms that ravage the coastlines week after week, not just once a century. Endlessly, all over the world.

We are bit players in a movie we've seen a hundred times. The monster is outside the door. Nobody in charge will pay attention. The scientists trying to warn that apocalypse is happening are fired, ridiculed, silenced. People die.

We are in a movie on a loop. Today it's environmental destruction. But all year long it has been death and denial, over and over and over.

A president assures us over and over and over that the virus will just disappear, like magic, knowing all the while it is a killer leaving not just death but maimed bodies as it moves from campus to nursing home to elementary classroom. Scientists at the Centers for Disease Control are muzzled by a ranting person put in charge of deciding what information is released and, mostly, what is not.

A climate change denier is now in charge of a vital post in the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

The United States abandons its leadership roles around the world and dismisses hard-fought efforts at saving the planet as hoaxes.

Scientific American, the 175-year-old magazine, is so appalled by science denial at the highest levels it endorsed Joe Biden for president, its only political endorsement since 1845.

The president openly holds super-spreaders, the nation's only large rallies with thousands of yelling, fired-up supporters without masks or social distancing, as he puts all the resources of the federal government behind his reelection effort. He goes endlessly to court, seeking new ways to prevent people from voting in areas where they might vote against him. He goes to court to try to keep people from getting health care.

Immigrants, including those here legally, widely face discrimination. A doctor is accused of stealing the uteruses of detained immigrant women, bringing to mind Nazism's worst atrocities. Children remain separated from their parents for years. Know-Nothingism rules again.

From coast to coast, Americans are singing the same refrain: Life as we know it seems to be coming to an end, and we know that what comes next may be more devastating and painful than we could have imagined.

Trump has disregarded science at our peril. Repeatedly. Repeatedly, science warned us, and science is proving far more correct than the man behind the caustic, impenetrable white smoke.

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Congress' last chance to avoid a long recession

By KARL W. SMITH
Bloomberg News

Karl W. Smith, a former assistant professor of economics at the University of North Carolina and founder of the blog Modeled Behavior, is vice president for federal policy at the Tax Foundation.

In sharp contrast to its impressive performance with the CARES Act, which was passed in less than two weeks, Congress's attempt at a second major pandemic relief bill has been a rolling disaster for nearly two months. To prevent a lasting recession from taking hold, Congress needs to find a compromise.

The bipartisan Problem Solvers Caucus in the House laid out just such a blueprint on Tuesday. It's not perfect. It won't satisfy Democratic demands for huge state and local aid, or placate the Republican desire to cut costs. It might, however, be enough to keep the economy growing through the end of the year and give the U.S. a shot at avoiding another decade of labor-market pain.

Still, passage is a long shot—if the bill ever made it out of the House, it's almost certain the bill would die in the Senate. If Congress does nothing, how might the economy respond?

It's worth noting that the situation now is much different than it was six months ago, when the economy began collapsing at a record pace. The original outbreak in the Northeast has been largely contained, and the secondary wave that passed through much of the rest of the nation was weaker than feared. More decisively, over the last few months the U.S. economy has been bouncing back across a variety of measures.

Two of the three most volatile sectors of the economy, business investment and housing starts, have largely recovered. The third—consumer durable purchases, such as appliances and automobiles—has surged past pre-pandemic levels. Unemployment, meanwhile, has fallen from a postwar record of nearly 15% in April to just more than 8% in August.

Nonetheless, the recovery is still fragile and the potential for additional surges remains. Most of the improvement in the unemployment rate was furloughed workers returning to work. The so-called full-recall employment rate—the percentage of workers whose job loss is permanent—has fallen only slightly, from 7.6% in April to 6.6% in August. Even worse, much of that dip may be illusory, as the Bureau of Labor Statistics expanded its definition of "temporary" in July.

This underlying weakness hasn't shown up in the spending numbers precisely because the CARES Act was so powerful. The large unemployment insurance supplement in the package meant that millions of furloughed workers actually saw their incomes rise. Not only were they slated to get their jobs back, but while they were waiting to be recalled, they took home more money.

But disposable personal income, which hit a record in April, has been in decline. It will continue to fall as more employees come back to work and their earnings are not supplemented by the government.

At that point, the weakness in the labor market is likely to translate into a renewed decline in spending. That decline in spending will, in turn, weaken companies' demand for workers. As a result, the current slow decline in the full-recall unemployment rate will stall out and possibly reverse.

The job market risks repeating a slightly worse version of the dot-com crash of the early aughts, when unemployment continued to drift upward for nearly two years after the recession ended in November 2001. It hit a peak of 6.3% in June 2003.

This time around, there is unlikely to be a subprime-financed housing boom to snap the economy out of its malaise. It could be 2025 before the underlying weakness in the job market is addressed, and 2030 before the economy returns to anything close to full employment.

This slow-moving crisis isn't as emotionally salient as the one the U.S. economy faced in March, but it is no less real. To avoid it, Congress will have to work together again—and soon.

This column does not necessarily reflect the opinion of the editorial board or Bloomberg LP and its owners.

How I am claiming my racism

By BENJAMIN WARNER
The Baltimore Sun

Benjamin Warner is a novelist who lives in Catonsville, Maryland. His Twitter address is @realBenWarner.

A while ago, I was sitting with my friend, Gioncarlo Valentine, who is a photographer and an essayist, and a person I trust to have thought deeply about living as a Black man in America. I was asking him how a white person like me might become an ally.

"Money," he told me, his voice suddenly brusque, as if losing patience with a smug, dishonest child.

"Yeah," I said. "But if I want to ..."

"Money!" he said.

"Money? To who? To where?"

He rolled his eyes, and then rolled off a list:

"The Okra Project, Baltimore Bloc, a Baltimore bail fund. You can donate to Black trans people directly. Money is the only real contribution you can make. The rest is performance art at best, racism at worst."

Okay, I thought. Fine. I agree. Money goes a long way to help. But what about demonstrations? What about a Black Lives Matter yard sign? What about those black squares people were posting on Instagram earlier this summer for "Blackout Tuesday"? Does any of it accomplish anything without money? Could it be that the model I was taught as a middle-class white American—to be cordial to my neighbors and basically leave everyone else alone—had not resulted in decency but in racism?

Let me be upfront about who I am so as not to be cute with that question. I'm the kind of college writing instructor who each semester makes sure my students are exposed to writers of color. I help run a writing prize in an understaffed, underfunded West Baltimore high school that is almost exclusively Black. I'm a well-intentioned, liberal, vegan with a couple of Black friends.

And yet here I am, a racist?

It's not a claim I take lightly. But maybe it's time for the admission to come more freely. Because of course the problem is that America has created an oppressed group of people, and of course the root of that problem is racism. But what is not as obvious—what, in fact, gets tamped down reflexively because the label and the problem carry the same name—is that if I don't claim my own racism, I'll do less to fix the part I play in it.

So, let me claim it, on the record.

I'm racist. And here are some of the ways:

- I take comfort knowing my community is being policed.
- I feel deeply secure living within my country's legal system.
- When one grocery store in my neighborhood is out of the oat milk I like, I drive to the other grocery store that sells the oat milk I like.
- I moved to a suburb because of the local elementary school's high rating on Zillow.
- My wife and I bought our house in part because of a financial security created by our parents having saved money by buying homes. (And their parents before them.)
- I can avoid the "dangerous" parts of the city.
- Part of my stimulus check went toward gift certificates at local restaurants.
- During the stay-at-home order, I was more bored than scared for my health or the health of my family.
- I'm able to work from home.
- I blithely asked my Black friend how I might become an ally.

In a vacuum the items on my list might seem innocuous—working from home during a pandemic is no more hurtful than a drink of water. But it's been race that has tracked alongside the percentages of front line workers, and so in some ways it has been race that has predicted who is comfortable at home and who is suffering the anxiety of exposure. More sharply, it is race that has predicted who has lived and who has died. So, if working from home during a pandemic is like drinking a glass of water, it's only right down the street people are dying of thirst.

Three miles away from me, there are residents of an underserved Black community who are unable to consider the options I take for granted. I imagine it comes as a belittling and dehumanizing reminder that just on the other side of the Beltway there are people able to make easier and freer choices.

When I participate in the items on my list without thinking of my neighbors who cannot, or who participate in them with different, often steeper consequences, then I'm behaving in a racist way. When I participate casually, I participate callously.

For me, announcing my racism is easy (and let's face it, I could add that to my list, too...).

Is it the first step toward becoming an ally?

Maybe.

That and money.

SENATOR

From Page 8

such as climate change, said Thomas Bollyky, senior fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations.

"If we can't cooperate in this situation what exactly is going to inspire global cooperation?" he told this board.

The White House should reconsider before the Sept. 18 deadline to pledge support for Covax.

Congress should also assert that the U.S. continues to support multilateral responses to global health crises.

A good start is a bill co-sponsored by U.S. Sen. Maria Cantwell, D-Seattle, the Abiding by U.S. Commitments Act. It would express congressional support for Covax and fulfill the U.S. pledge to fund the World Health Organization.

Cantwell summed the situation up well in her announcement: "Pandemics don't stop at borders, and neither should the global response."

(c)2020 *The Seattle Times*

Dominoes of peace: Pieces of a new Mideast are falling into place

Buy one, get one free isn't usually for treaties between nations, but it happened, so we offer high praise for President Trump, Jared Kushner and other key administration officials for engineering a pair of Israel-Arab peace pacts in less than a month, consummated on the White House South Lawn on Tuesday with signings by the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain with Israel.

The president delivered a breakthrough for cooperation and advancement in the Mideast. And there may be more to come; Trump insists "we're very far down the road with about five countries, five additional countries."

For many, this will make for a very happy Jewish New Year, 5781, which starts Friday evening.

The "circle of peace," as Israeli Prime Minister Bibi Netanyahu called it as he stood with the foreign ministers of UAE and Bahrain, has now doubled from Egypt and Jordan. And there is no way that tiny Bahrain would have inked its deal without the okay of big brother Saudi Arabia. The Saudis, along the other gulf states of Kuwait, Oman and Qatar, are likely on Trump's list, as may be Morocco and Sudan.

The strategic consequence of this momentum, should it continue, is that Iran and its friends in terrorism and regional destabilization will be increasingly outflanked. Palestinians will, we hope, come to see that refusing to broker peace with Israel is a dead end.

There's a road ahead, and it leads to coexistence.

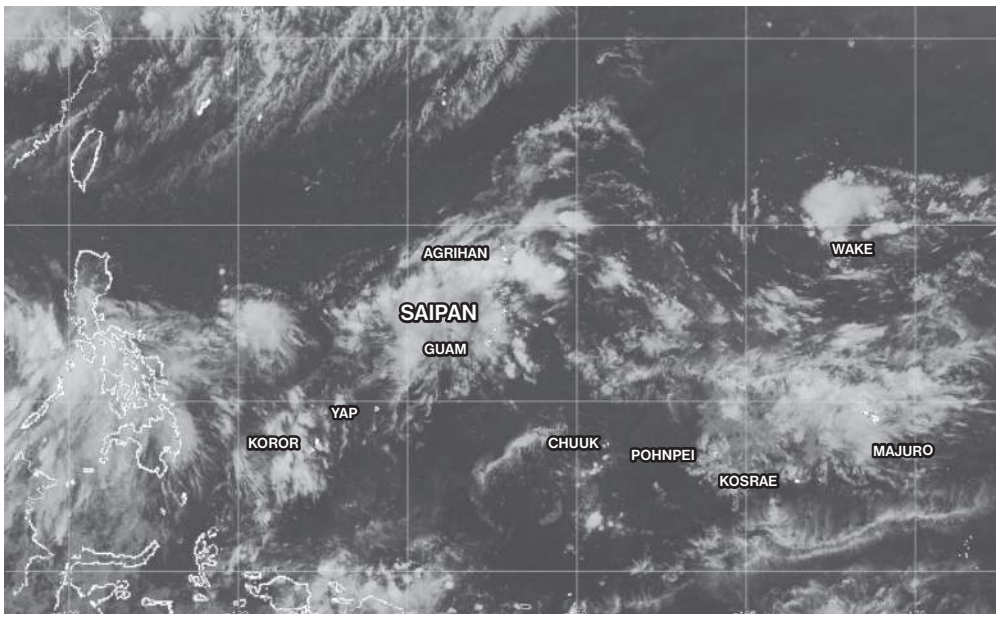
(c)2020 *New York Daily News*

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms. East winds 5 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
87° 78°	87° 78°	87° 78°	88° 78°	89° 78°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 9:09 AM, THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2020

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Weather radar shows showers spread across the Marianas this morning. The buoys reveal combined seas of 3 to 5 feet, composed mainly of an east-northeast trade-wind swell and a north swell.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

STOP THE SPREAD

The Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. continue to encourage residents within the Marianas to practice social distancing, which means avoiding close contact with people in order to avoid catching the virus yourself and to avoid passing it on to others.

- Stay home as much as possible. Avoid unnecessary travel or public places.
- Avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10.
- Choose drive-thru, take-out, or delivery options, or outdoor seating, if available, when dining in.
- Send only one healthy adult from the household run necessary errands, such as getting groceries or picking up medications. Leave children, elderly, and other vulnerable people at home as much as possible. When returning home from an errand, wash your hands before doing anything else.
- Older adults and people with chronic medical conditions are at higher risk of getting very sick from this illness. People at high risk should stay at home as much as possible.
- Create a household plan of action, https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/checklisthousehold-ready.html
- Ensure a 30-day supply of all medicines.

Continue good hand hygiene

- Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, avoid touching your face, cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve.
- Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not readily available.

Know the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and what to do if you become symptomatic

- Stay home when you are sick and if you recently traveled to a place with COVID-19. Self-quarantine means:
  - ❏ Choosing a room in your house that can be used to separate sick household members from others.
  - ❏ Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
  - ❏ Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
  - ❏ Limiting visitors

CHCC appreciates the patience and understanding of the community at this time. To obtain general information about the CNMI COVID-19 response, contact the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force Hotline at 287-0046, 287-0489, 287-1089. These numbers are available Monday to Sunday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For medical information about COVID-19, reach out to the COVID-19 Infoline at the following numbers: 285-1672/1352. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For mental health support and helpful tips during a crisis, call the Mental Health Support Line at 285-1856, 323-6560, 323-6561 These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30 pm. For the 24/7 Disaster Distress Helpline, call SAMSHA at 1-800-985-5990.

For more information about DIY face coverings, visit https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html

For more information about CHCC programs, follow CHCC on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter at @cnmichcc, check out our website at www.chcc.gov.mp or call us at (670) 234-8950.

For more information on the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, visit www.governor.gov.mpand, follow @GovernorCNMI on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

This health advisory may be found online at http://www.chcc.gov.mp/pressrelease.html and at www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19.

Rumor control

During crises like this, oftentimes the spread of misinformation is just as dangerous as the virus itself. The CNMI is reminded to only share official and verified notices, press releases, and advisories from the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and CHCC.

Source: Office of the Governor

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MICRONESIA	▲ ▼ °F	
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	85° / 78°
Palau	Thunderstorms	85° / 77°
Yap	Thunderstorms	87° / 79°
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	87° / 80°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	86° / 76°
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	86° / 77°
Majuro	Thunderstorms	85° / 80°

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:05 AM	6:16 PM
Saturday	6:05 AM	6:15 PM
Sunday	6:05 AM	6:14 PM
Monday	6:05 AM	6:13 PM
Tuesday	6:06 AM	6:13 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	6:36 AM	7:06 PM	-
Saturday	7:36 AM	7:52 PM	-
Sunday	8:36 AM	8:39 PM	-
Monday	9:37 AM	9:28 PM	-
Tuesday	10:39 AM	10:19 PM	-

AROUND THE GLOBE	▲ ▼ °F	
Auckland	Showers	61° / 52°
Beijing	Sunny	90° / 64°
Hong Kong	Thunderstorms	88° / 81°
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	86° / 74°
London	Mostly Cloudy	66° / 52°
Los Angeles	Sunny	84° / 69°
Manila	Thunderstorms	91° / 79°
Melbourne	Showers	57° / 41°
Miami	Thunderstorms	88° / 81°
New York	Rain	75° / 62°
Osaka	Rain	88° / 75°
Paris	Mostly Cloudy	66° / 54°
Busan	Rain	79° / 68°
Rome	Partly Cloudy	82° / 66°
Salem	Mostly Cloudy	78° / 58°
San Francisco	Sunny	66° / 58°
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	82° / 66°
Tokyo	Thunderstorms	82° / 72°
Washington, DC	Rain	70° / 60°

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
1:59 AM	LOW TIDE	0.67
7:38 AM	HIGH TIDE	2.14
2:20 PM	LOW TIDE	0.08
8:31 PM	HIGH TIDE	2.08

FLIGHT SCHEDULE

DEPARTURES

GUM-MNL

UA183	7:30am	9:10pm	1 via Guam
UA183	7:30am	10:50pm	5 via Guam

Friday GUM-MNL will need THU overnight in GUM, so did not include in below.

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA117	7:30am	8:10am	1, 4
UA117	7:50am	8:30am	6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

UA117/183	7:30am	9:10pm	1 via Guam

ARRIVALS

MNL-GUM

UA184	10:45pm	4:25am+1	1 via Guam
UA184	11:45pm	5:33am+1	5 via Guam

Monday MNL-GUM will need TUE-WED overnight in GUM, so did not include in below.

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA174	5:50am	6:31am	1, 4
UA174	6:15am	6:56am	6

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA184/174	11:45pm	6:56am+1	5 via Guam

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301.2	8:30AM	9:00AM	Tues/Fri
1303	3:30PM	4:00PM	Tues/Fri

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101.2	9:30AM	10:00AM	Tues/Fri
3103	4:30PM	5:00PM	Tues/Fri

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	13:00	13:30	Temporarily Unavailable

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00	7:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1202	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	10:00	10:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1205	11:00	11:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1206	12:00	12:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1207	13:00	13:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1208	14:00	14:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1209	15:00	15:15	Daily
1210	16:00	16:15	Daily
1211	17:00	17:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1212	18:00	18:15	Temporarily Unavailable

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2101	7:30	7:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	10:30	10:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2105	11:30	11:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2106	12:30	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2107	13:30	13:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2108	14:30	14:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
2111	17:30	17:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2112	18:30	18:45	Temporarily Unavailable

Business

Sunday family brunch at PIC is back

By BEA CABRERA
beacabrerasaipan@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

Family-friendly Sunday Brunch opens this weekend at Pacific Island Club's Magellan Restaurant. Enjoy your favorite brunch food and have a memorable weekend with loved ones because brunch at the Magellan is the perfect reward to end the week and a good start to welcome another.

"We are excited to bring back the Sunday Brunch at the Magellan. …The decision came because of the demand from our regular customers. …The buzz of excitement from both our employees and our regular guests is tremendous," said PIC general manager Gloria Cavanagh.

The hotel resort first opened Happy Hour and dinner at the Seaside Grill in mid-August. That outlet is open every Thursday, Friday and Saturday .Another PIC outlet, The Galley, opened for lunch last Sept. 1, from Monday to Friday. This time, it's The Magellan Sunday Brunch.

"Since there is limited seating in The Magellan, we encourage reservations. We are also open for events and workshops but they have to follow our government's guidelines," Cavanagh said.

According to her, the expansion of services one after the other at PIC is based on the demand of their regular customers. "We had to wait until the most recent restrictions were lifted and that we are back to Level Blue. The opening of both Magellan and [Seaside Grill] are very labor-intensive and so we needed to run fiscal projections so as to be comfortable in making a small profit or at least breaking even. Hotels run huge losses in a dormant environment (completely closed)," she said.

She said PIC is also looking at the possibility of opening limited services in its waterpark, the main pools and the Siheky kids' pool. "We are still toying with the idea of opening our rooms for the weekends but there is no definite plans as of yet. We are looking at the numbers and hopefully decide soon for October," she added.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Magellan Restaurant reopened on Sunday for brunch and, as a welcome treat as well as a gesture of concern for the health of the community, guests will be given special slow roasted garlic when seated. PIC management believes that the health benefits of garlic includes prevention of colds, extension of life of cells, reduction of cholesterol, protection against heart disease, low of blood pressure and more.

Cavanagh said that due to COVID-19 concerns, they had to bring in additional preventive and protective measures to ensure the safety of both guests and our employees. "Our employees—even though they are called employees—are only working part-time now and, even with that, they are very excited about the reopenings and we are ready to provide a great product."

This Sunday, as a gesture of concern for the health of the community, PIC will be presenting each of its guests at The Magellan a special slow roasted garlic as they are seated. Cavanagh said the health benefits of this garlic are prevention of colds, extension of life of cells, reduction of cholesterol, protection against heart disease, low blood pressure and more. "We hope that our guests would appreciate and enjoy the beginning of a wonderful experience," she said.

Looking at the silver lining, Cavanagh said the pandemic also had a great impact on PIC operations. "…after Super Typhoon Yutu, our operations were trimmed of wasteful fat. The closure because of the pandemic made us find more fat that can be trimmed. At the time of opening, we all should be lean and well-oiled and ready to bring our best foot forward to welcome back our tourists," she said. "We are very hungry to give our customers the best service we can provide. Additionally, I think we all learned a huge lesson on patience and respect of each other. Many people and businesses have stepped forward to help others and hope that all of us have learned what is really important in life."

With local discount, the Sunday Family Brunch is only $30 for adults and $15 for child. The Galley is open during lunch, 11am-2pm from Monday to Friday, while the Seaside Grill is open for Happy Hour, 5pm-9pm, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday. For more information call (670) 234-7976, 8am-5pm, from Monday to Wednesday and 8am-9pm from Thursday to Saturday.

Hawaii to allow travelers to skip quarantine with virus test

By AUDREY McAVOY
ASSOCIATED PRESS

HONOLULU (AP)—Hawaii Gov. David Ige said Wednesday that starting Oct. 15, travelers arriving from out of state may bypass a 14-day quarantine requirement if they test negative for COVID-19.

Travelers will have to take the test within 72 hours before their flight arrives in the islands. Ige said drug store operator CVS and healthcare provider Kaiser Permanente will conduct the tests as part of an agreement with the state.

Earlier this year Ige planned to start a pre-travel testing program on Aug. 1 only to have to postpone it as COVID-19 cases spiked on the U.S. mainland and in Hawaii. A shortage of testing supplies also forced delays. Another start date for Sept. 1 was also canceled. Airlines are expected to help inform travelers of the requirement.

Hawaii leaders are hopeful that pre-travel testing will encourage people to return to a Hawaii in a way that keeps residents safe. Tourism traffic to the state has plunged more than 90% since the pandemic began, forcing hundreds of hotels to close and pushing many people out of work.

"I want to emphasize that this pre-travel testing will allow us to add a greater element of safety for travel into our state," Ige said at a news conference.

Lt. Gov. Josh Green, who joined the news conference via Zoom because he tested positive for the disease and is isolating at home, said the program will provide economic opportunity at a time when so many people are suffering. Upheaval from the pandemic pushed nearly one-quarter of Hawaii's workforce into joblessness. In April, Hawaii had the third-worst unemployment rate in the nation after Nevada and Michigan.

Fed sees rates near zero through 2023, perhaps longer

WASHINGTON (AP)—With the economy still struggling to recover from the pandemic recession, Federal Reserve policymakers signaled Wednesday that their benchmark short-term interest rate will likely remain at zero at least through 2023 and possibly even longer.

Fed chair Jerome Powell said at a press conference that while the economy has rebounded more quickly than expected, the job market is still hurting and the outlook is uncertain. The unemployment rate has fallen steadily since the spring but is still 8.4%.

"Although we welcome this progress we will not lose sight of the millions of Americans that remain out of work," Powell said.

The Fed left its benchmark interest rate unchanged at nearly zero, where it has been pegged since the virus pandemic intensified in March. The rate influences borrowing costs for homebuyers, credit card users, and businesses. Fed policymakers hope an extended period of low interest rates will encourage more borrowing and spending, though their policy also carries the risk of inflating a bubble in stocks or other financial assets.

Fed officials said in a set of quarterly economic projections that they expect to keep rates at zero through 2023. And in a statement released after its two-day meeting, the Fed said it wouldn't raise borrowing costs until inflation has reached 2% and appears likely to "moderately exceed" that level for an extended period.

US charges 5 Chinese citizens in global hacking campaign

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Justice Department has charged five Chinese citizens with hacks targeting more than 100 companies and institutions in the United States and abroad, including social media and video game companies as well as universities and telecommunications providers, officials said Wednesday.

The five defendants remain fugitives, but prosecutors say two Malaysian businessmen charged with conspiring with the alleged hackers to profit off the attacks on the billion-dollar video game industry were arrested in Malaysia this week and now face extradition proceedings.

The indictments are part of a broader effort by the Trump administration to call out cybercrimes by China. In July, prosecutors accused hackers of working with the Chinese government to target companies developing vaccines for the coronavirus and of stealing hundreds of millions of dollars worth of intellectual property and trade secrets from companies across the world.

Though those allegations were tailored to the pandemic, the charges announced Wednesday—and the range of victims identified—were significantly broader and involved attacks done both for monetary gain but also more conventional espionage purposes.

In unsealing three related indictments, officials laid out a wide-ranging hacking scheme targeting a variety of business sectors and academia and carried out by a China-based group known as APT41. That group has been tracked over the last year by the cybersecurity firm Mandiant Threat Intelligence, which described the hackers as prolific and successful at blending criminal and espionage operations.

LEADING INDICATORS

DOW	S&P	NASDAQ
28,032.38	3,385.49	11,050.47
+36.78	−15.71	−139.86
.13%	0.46%	1.25%

EXCHANGE RATES

In U.S. dollar terms

Australian Dollar	1.3744	Hong Kong Dollar	7.7498	Russian Ruble	73.9870
British Pound	0.7730	Indian Rupee	73.3174	Singapore Dollar	1.3612
Canadian Dollar	1.3225	Japanese Yen	105.0150	South Korean Won	1151.50
Chinese Yuan	6.6806	Malaysian Ringgit	4.1107	Swiss Franc	0.9123
Euro	0.8499	New Zealand Dollar	1.4944	Taiwan Dollar	28.7052
		Philippine Peso	47.6485	Thailand Baht	31.2040

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United States® Census 2020

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
OFFICIAL SEAL

Nation

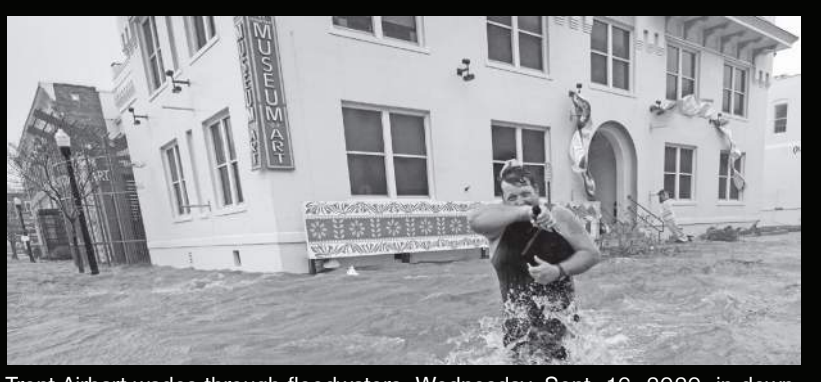
Cars and a motorcycle are underwater as water floods a street, Wednesday, Sept. 16, 2020, in Pensacola, Fla.

Floodwaters move on the street, Wednesday, Sept. 16, 2020, in Pensacola, Fla.

A boat is washed up near a road after Hurricane Sally moved through the area, Wednesday, Sept. 16, 2020, in Orange Beach, Ala.

The business of Joe and Teresa Mirable is seen after Hurricane Sally moved through the area, Wednesday, Sept. 16, 2020, in Perdido Key, Fla.

Joe Mirable surveys the damage to his business after Hurricane Sally moved through the area, Wednesday, Sept. 16, 2020, in Perdido Key, Fla.



Trent Airhart wades through floodwaters, Wednesday, Sept. 16, 2020, in downtown Pensacola, Fla.

AP PHOTOS

At least 1 dead, hundreds rescued

PENSACOLA, Fla. (AP)—Hurricane Sally lumbered ashore near the Florida-Alabama line Wednesday with 105 mph (165 kph) winds and rain measured in feet, not inches, killing at least one person, swamping homes and forcing the rescue of hundreds as it pushed inland for what could be a slow and disastrous drenching across the Deep South.

The death happened in Orange Beach, Alabama, according to Mayor Tony Kennon, who also told The Associated Press that one person was missing. Kennon said he couldn't immediately release details.

Moving at just 3 mph (5 kph), or about as fast as a person can walk, the storm made landfall at 4:45 a.m. close to Gulf Shores, Alabama, about 30 miles (50 kilometers) from Pensacola, Florida. It accelerated to a light jog as it battered the Pensacola and Mobile, Alabama, metropolitan areas encompassing nearly 1 million people.

Sally cast boats onto land or sank them at the dock, flattened palm trees, peeled away roofs, blew down signs and knocked out power to more than 540,000 homes and businesses. A replica of Christopher Columbus' ship the Nina that had been docked at the Pensacola waterfront was missing, police said.

Sally tore loose a barge-mounted construction crane, which then smashed into the new Three Mile Bridge over Pensacola Bay, causing a section of the year-old span to collapse, authorities said. The storm also ripped away a large section of a fishing pier at Alabama's Gulf State Park on the very day a ribbon-cutting had been scheduled following a $2.4 million renovation.

By the afternoon, authorities in Escambia County, which includes Pensacola, said at least 377 people had been rescued from flooded areas. More than 40 people trapped by high water were brought to safety within a single hour, including a family of four found in a tree, Sheriff David Morgan said.

Authorities in Pensacola said 200 National Guard members would arrive Thursday to help. Curfews were announced in Escambia County and in some coastal Alabama towns.

Sally turned some Pensacola streets into white-capped rivers early Wednesday. Sodden debris and flooded cars were left behind as the water receded.

By early afternoon, Sally had weakened into a tropical storm. It was downgraded to a depression late Wednesday night with 35 mph (55 kph) sustained winds. The National Weather Service said the system was still forecast to dump 4 inches (10 centimeters) to 8 inches (29 centimeters) of rain in southeast Alabama and central Georgia by Thursday night, with up to 1 foot (30.48 centimeters) in some spots.

At least eight waterways in south Alabama and the Florida Panhandle were expected to hit their major flood levels by Thursday. Some of the crests could break records, submerge bridges and flood some homes, the National Weather Service warned.

Morgan, the Escambia County sheriff, estimated thousands would need to flee rising waters in the coming days. Escambia officials urged residents to rely on text messages for contacting family and friends to keep cellphone service open for 911 calls.

"There are entire communities that we're going to have to evacuate," the sheriff said. "It's going to be a tremendous operation over the next several days."

West of Pensacola, in Perdido Key, Florida, Joe Mirable arrived at his real estate business to find the two-story building shattered. Digging through the ruins, Mirable pointed out a binder labeled "Hurricane Action Plan."

"I think the professionals got this one wrong," he said before the wind blew away his hat.

More than 2 feet (61 centimeters) of rain was recorded near Naval Air Station Pensacola, and nearly 3 feet (1 meter) of water covered streets in downtown Pensacola, the National Weather Service reported.

"It's not common that you start measuring rainfall in feet," said forecaster David Eversole.

Sally was the second hurricane to hit the Gulf Coast in less than three weeks and the latest to blow in during one of the busiest hurricane seasons ever. Forecasters have nearly run through the alphabet of storm names with 2 1/2 months still to go. At the start of the week, Sally was one of a record-tying five storms churning simultaneously in the Atlantic basin.

Like the wildfires raging on the West Coast, the onslaught of hurricanes has focused attention on climate change, which scientists say is causing slower, rainier, more powerful and more destructive storms.

An emergency crew rescued two people on Dauphin Island, Alabama, after the hurricane ripped the roof off their home and the rest of the house began to crumble. Mayor Jeff Collier said no one was injured.

In Orange Beach, Alabama, the wind blew out the walls in one corner of a condominium building, exposing at least five floors. At least 50 people were rescued from flooded homes and taken to shelters, Mayor Tony Kennon said.

"We got a few people that we just haven't been able to get to because the water is so high," Kennon said. "But they are safe in their homes. As soon as the water recedes, we will rescue them."

Sally's crawl made it hard to predict where it would strike. Just two days before landfall, the storm was forecast to hit New Orleans—140 miles (225 kilometers) west of where it came ashore.

So Robert Lambrisky and his husband were caught somewhat off guard when the hurricane shook their door before daybreak and forced rainwater inside their home in Sanders Beach near Pensacola.

"We had some warning, but this was just such a strange storm," Lambrisky said. "So all of this preparing that you do, when you know the storm is coming, was something we only half did because we were convinced the storm wasn't going to hit us."

Sally's effects were felt all along the northern Gulf Coast, affecting low-lying properties in Mississippi and southeastern Louisiana.

Hurricane Laura pummeled southwestern Louisiana on Aug. 27. Thousands of people were still without power from that storm, and some were still in shelters.

Meanwhile, far out in the Atlantic, Teddy became a hurricane Wednesday with winds of 100 mph (160 kph). Forecasters said it could reach Category 4 strength before closing in on Bermuda, which took a direct hit from Hurricane Paulette only days ago.

Asia

Japan's new PM Yoshihide Suga, self-made and strong-willed

TOKYO (AP)—Before he got Japan's top government job, Yoshihide Suga was known as a "shadow" prime minister and the right-hand man for his long-serving predecessor.

When Shinzo Abe announced last month he would resign due to ill health, his chief Cabinet secretary, Suga, said he would come forward to pursue Abe's unfinished work.

The self-made politician was elected by Parliament on Wednesday as Japan's new prime minister, two days after he succeeded Abe as leader of the governing Liberal Democratic Party.

Suga's low-key image from government briefings contrasts with his behind-the-scenes work managing bureaucrats and pushing policies.

As the chief Cabinet spokesman under Abe, the straight-faced Suga offered bland commentary at twice-daily televised news briefings highlighted last year when he became known as "Uncle Reiwa" for unveiling Emperor Naruhito's imperial era name, Reiwa.

But behind the scenes, Suga is known for stubbornness, an iron-fist approach as a policy coordinator and influencing bureaucrats using the power of the prime minister's office, leading politics watchers to call him the "shadow prime minister."

Some bureaucrats who opposed his policies have said they were removed from government projects or transferred to other posts. Suga recently said he would continue to do so.

As his parents' eldest son, Suga defied tradition by leaving for Tokyo rather than taking over the family strawberry farm in Akita prefecture. He worked at a cardboard factory before entering university, paying his tuition by working part-time jobs, including one at the Tsukiji fish market.

His classmates remember Suga as quiet but a person of determination. Suga, who played baseball in junior high school, insisted on keeping his batting stance despite an instructor's advice, saying his style made better sense, his old friend Yuri Masashi told the Mainichi newspaper. Apparently Suga was not talking off the cuff, and practiced and mastered the technique of a pro baseball star from Akita. "Once he makes a decision, he never sways and he is still the same," Masashi said.

He was a secretary to former trade minister Hikosaburo Okonogi for 11 years before becoming a Yokohama city assemblyman in 1987.

"I jumped into politics, where I had no connection or relatives, literally starting from zero,(asterisk) he said Monday.

Suga was elected to the lower house of parliament in 1996 at age 47, a late start compared to politicians like Abe, a third-generation blue-blood politician elected to parliament at age 29.

Yoshihide Suga is applauded after being elected as Japan's new prime minister at parliament's lower house in Tokyo, Wednesday, Sept. 16, 2020. AP

Suga was a loyal supporter of Abe since Abe's first stint as prime minister from 2006 to 2007, and helped Abe return to power in 2012 and become Japan's longest-serving prime minister.

Suga has said his top priorities will be fighting the coronavirus and turning around a Japanese economy battered by the pandemic. He has repeatedly praised Abe's diplomacy and economic policies when asked about what he would like to accomplish as prime minister, but his vision of a future Japan remains unclear. He also defended favoritism and cronyism scandals that occurred under Abe, saying the investigations into the cases were properly handled.

Suga, at 71, says he is in good shape and fit for the leadership job. His disciplined daily routine includes sit-ups and walking—while wearing a business suit so he can immediately head to work in an emergency. He commutes from a parliamentary apartment and hardly goes to his home in Yokohama.

He says his weakness is sweets, especially sweet pancakes and daifuku mochi, a Japanese rice treat filled with sweet bean paste.

Suga says he is a reformist and has broken bureaucratic barriers to secure policy achievements. He credits himself for a boom in foreign tourism, which he hopes to revive when the coronavirus pandemic subsides, as well as lowering cellphone bills and bolstering agricultural exports.

In this photo provided by the Lantawan Disaster Risk Reduction Management Office, rescuers check the still smoldering remains of a Philippine air force S-76A Sikorsky helicopter after it crashed in Basilan island, southern Philippines on Wednesday Sept. 16, 2020. AP

Philippine air force helicopter crashes, 4 crew killed

ZAMBOANGA, Philippines (AP)—A Philippine air force helicopter on its way to airlift troops wounded in a recent suicide bombing crashed on a southern island Wednesday, killing all four crew members on board, officials said.

The Sikorsky S-76A took off from southern Zamboanga city for a flight to nearby Sulu province and crashed midway in rainy weather in the hilly village of Upper Manggas on Basilan island, the air force and police said.

The two pilots and two other crew members were killed. They were bound for Jolo town to airlift troops who were wounded in two Aug. 24 bombings blamed on Abu Sayyaf militants, air force spokesman Lt. Col. Aristides Galang said.

The bombings killed 15 people, including soldiers, along with two suspected female militants, and wounded more than 70 soldiers, policemen and civilians in the worst Muslim militant attacks in the country this year.

Officials were investigating the cause of the crash. Other Sikorsky helicopters were grounded for safety checks while the investigation is underway, the air force said.

US envoy leading second recent high-level visit to Taiwan

TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP)—A senior U.S. State Department official is due to arrive in Taiwan on Thursday afternoon to begin a three-day visit that has already drawn a warning from China.

U.S. Undersecretary of State Keith Krach is due to meet Taiwan's President Tsai Ing-wen and other senior officials, the island's foreign ministry said Thursday. Krach is the highest-level official from the State Department to visit the island in decades.

His visit follows the high-profile visit in August of U.S. Health Secretary Alex Azar, who was the highest-level U.S. Cabinet official to visit since a break in formal ties between the U.S. and Taiwanese government in 1979, when the U.S. accepted the "one-China policy" with Beijing as its government.

However, the U.S. has maintained unofficial ties with Taiwan since the official diplomatic break and is the island's most important ally and provider of defense equipment.

Krach is expected to participate in an economic dialogue with the Taiwanese government. He will also attend a memorial service for Lee Teng-hui, the former president who led the island's transition to democracy and who died in July.

Krach's visit has already been condemned by China, which views self-governing Taiwan as a part of its national territory and opposes official interactions of any sort between other countries and the island.

On Monday, Chinese foreign ministry spokesman Wang Wenbin urged the U.S. at a daily briefing to "stop all forms of official exchanges with Taiwan, so as to avoid serious damage to China-U.S. relations and peace and stability across the Taiwan Strait."

Divers in SE Asia may have found US submarine lost in WWII

BANGKOK (AP)—Divers have found what they believe is the wreck of a U.S. Navy submarine lost 77 years ago in Southeast Asia, providing a coda to a stirring but little-known tale from World War II.

The divers have sent photos and other evidence from six dives they made from October 2019 to March this year to the United States Naval History and Heritage Command for verification that they have found the USS Grenadier, one of 52 American submarines lost during the conflict.

The 1,475-ton, 307-foot long Grenadier was scuttled by its crew after bombs from a Japanese plane almost sent them to a watery grave. All 76 of its personnel survived the bombing and sinking, but their agony to follow would be prolonged. After being taken prisoner, they were tortured, beaten and nearly starved by their Japanese captors for more than two years, and four did not survive that ordeal.

The wreck lies 82 meters (270 feet) underwater somewhere in the Strait of Malacca, about 150 kilometers (92 miles) south of Phuket, Thailand. It was discovered by Singapore-based Jean Luc Rivoire and Benoit Laborie of France, and Australian Lance Horowitz and Belgian Ben Reymenants, who live in Phuket, Thailand.

Reymenants was one of the divers who took part in the dramatic rescue of a dozen boys and their soccer coach who got trapped in a cave in northern Thailand two years ago.

The Belgian has been researching possible locations for shipwrecks for many years, Horowitz said in an interview with The Associated Press, and Rivoire had a suitable boat to explore the leads he found.

World

Leader of Libya's UN-backed govt wants to hand over power

CAIRO (AP)—The head of Libya's U.N.-supported government said Wednesday night that he wants to hand over power to a new administration in October, amid peace talks on ending the country's yearslong conflict.

Fayez Serraj said the U.N.-brokered talks between the country's rival factions have led to a "new preparatory phase" to unify Libyan institutions and prepare for parliamentary and presidential elections.

"I announce to everyone my sincere desire to hand over my duties to the next executive authority, no later than the end of next October," he declared in a televised speech from the capital, Tripoli.

Oil-rich Libya was plunged into chaos when a NATO-backed uprising in 2011 toppled longtime ruler Moammar Gadhafi, who was later killed. The country has since split between rival east- and west-based administrations, each backed by armed groups and foreign governments.

Eastern military commander Khalifa Hifter launched an offensive in April 2019 trying to capture Tripoli from Sarraj's government. But Hifter's campaign collapsed in June when militias backing the U.N.-supported government, with heavy Turkish support, gained the upper hand, driving his forces from the outskirts of the capital and other western towns.

Under heavy international pressure, delegates from rivals camps met earlier this month and agreed on a preliminary deal that aims to guide the country toward elections within 18 months and demilitarize the contested city of Sirte. The city, which is controlled by Hifter, is the gateway to Libya's major oil fields and export terminals, also held by Hifter.

Talks are expected to resume soon in Geneva.

Sarraj, who arrived in Tripoli on Wednesday after a visit to his close ally Turkey, urged negotiators to quickly name the new administration to "secure a peaceful and smooth transition."

Last month he called for a cease-fire and the demilitarization of Sirte and Jurfa area. Aguila Saleh, speaker of the rival eastern-based House of Representatives, supported Sarraj's proposal for demilitarizating Sirte, but he did not mention Jurfa, which includes a vital military airbase held by Hifter. The warring sides have been building up in and around Sirte.

U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said at a news conference Wednesday that Libya requires a new political process.

"That political process needs to renew the institutions that exist and, at the same time, to move for elections in an acceptable delay," he said. "There are signs of hope."

Guterres said also there are "promising contacts" to agree on a lasting cease-fire rather than the currently existed military standstill.

Sarraj, a 60-year-old former architect, was appointed in 2015 to lead the presidential council, created by a political agreement that was signed by Libya's factions in Skhirat, Morocco.

UK TO RETURN SCULPTURES

This undated handout photo provided by the Metropolitan Police shows three bronze sculptures, which are being returned to a temple in the Tanjavur District in India, in England. British police say that three historically and religiously important bronze sculptures stolen from a temple in India more than 40 years ago are being returned after specialist detectives took action. Police said Wednesday, Sept. 16, 2020 the idols were taken in 1978 from a temple in the Tanjavur district of Tamil Nadu.

METROPOLITAN POLICE VIA AP

Barbados seeks to drop Queen Elizabeth II as head of state

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP)—Queen Elizabeth II has eight realms in the Caribbean, but Barbados no longer wants to be part of that kingdom.

The former British colony once known as "Little England" announced it plans to replace the monarch with its own head of state in time for next year's 55th independence anniversary.

"Our country can be in no doubt about its capacity for self-governance," Barbados' Governor General Sandra Mason, who was appointed by the queen, said late Tuesday. "The time has come to fully leave our colonial past behind."

It is Barbados' second attempt in five years to replace the queen with a local leader, but some believe this time will be different, in part fueled by a recent push across the Western Hemisphere to bring down symbols of oppression.

Barbadian businessman Chester Sue told The Associated Press by phone that he supports the move even though he doesn't think it would make much of a difference.

"It is long overdue," he said. "I don't subscribe to the present system ... We still have to pay homage to the queen of England. I find it to be a whole lot of nonsense."

English settlers first arrived in Barbados in the 1620s and turned it into a wealthy sugar colony dependent on the work of hundreds of thousands of African slaves. The island gained its independence from the United Kingdom in November 1966 and dropped the London-based Privy Council in 2005 for the Trinidad-based Caribbean Court of Justice as its final court of appeal, but it remains a commonwealth realm.

Barbados would need a two-thirds majority in Parliament to make the constitutional changes required to remove the queen as head of state and implement a ceremonial president. Prime Minister Mia Mottley's Barbados Labour Party controls both houses in Parliament.

Buckingham Palace and Downing Street said the decision lay in the hands of government officials in Barbados, with a Number 10 spokesman adding, "We obviously have a shared history and remain united with Barbados in terms of history, culture and language."

The Caribbean has only a handful of republics that used to be former British colonies: Dominica, Guyana and Trinidad & Tobago. Jamaica has talked about becoming a republic, but made no moves. Meanwhile, at least six former British colonies in the Caribbean continue to be non-self-governing territories, including Anguilla, Bermuda and the Cayman Islands.

Experts cite 'crimes against humanity' in Maduro's Venezuela

GENEVA (AP)—Independent experts for the U.N.'s top human rights body accused the government of Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro on Wednesday of crimes against humanity, highlighting grisly cases of torture and killings allegedly carried out by security forces who used techniques like electric shocks, genital mutilation and asphyxiation.

In a scathing, in-depth report commissioned by the Human Rights Council, the experts said the people responsible for extrajudicial executions, enforced disappearances, arbitrary detentions and other crimes must be held to account to provide justice for untold thousands of victims and to ensure such crimes don't happen again.

The findings of the report are likely to ratchet up pressure on Maduro's government, which has overseen a country in tatters with runaway inflation, a violent crackdown and an exodus of millions of Venezuelans who have fled to neighboring countries to escape the turmoil since he took power in 2013.

Maduro

Venezuelan Foreign Minister Jorge Arreaza lashed out saying the report written by an alleged fact-finding mission was actually led by a group of nations set on attacking Venezuela.

"This report plagued by falsehoods was drawn up from afar without relying on rigorous methodology by a phantom mission directed against Venezuela by governments subordinate to Washington," Arreaza said on Twitter.

The experts say they delved into nearly 3,000 cases, looked at more than 5,000 killings and concluded that Maduro and his defense and interior ministers were aware of the crimes committed by Venezuelan security forces and intelligence agencies.

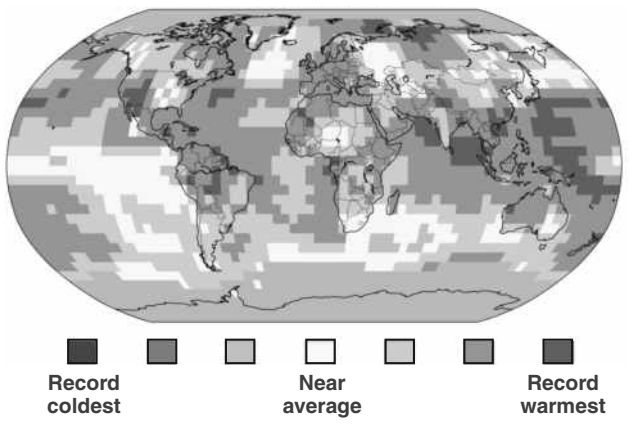
They further alleged that high-level authorities had both power and oversight over the forces and agencies, making the top officials responsible. Venezuelan authorities were not immediately available for comment.

Critics have already accused Maduro's government of crimes against humanity. But the 411-page report represents one of the most extensive looks at recent rights abuses in Venezuela, drawing upon interviews with victims, relatives, witnesses, police, officials and judges, plus videos, satellite imagery and social media content. The authors said they did not receive responses from the government.

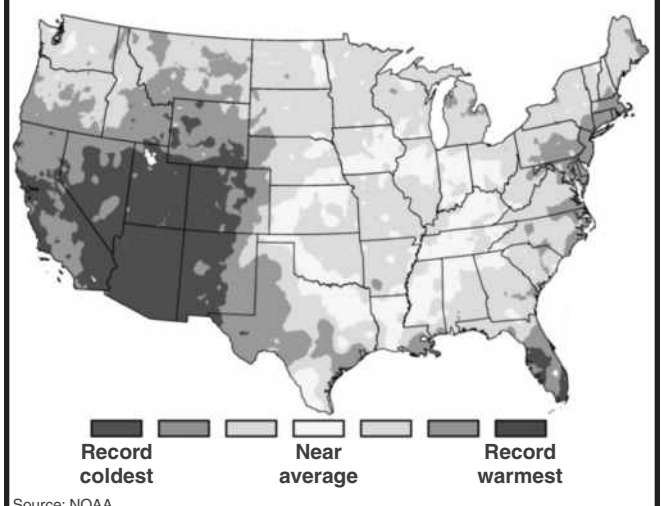
Second-warmest August on record

The August 2020 globally averaged temperature departure from average over land and ocean surfaces was the second highest for the month of August in the 141-year NOAA global temperature dataset record, which dates back to 1880.

Land and ocean temperatures, Aug. 2020



For August, the contiguous U.S. average temperature was 74.7°F, 2.6°F above the 20th-century average and ranked third-warmest August on record.



Source: NOAA
Graphic: Staff, TNS

Off The Wall

Primate monkeys around with student's phone, takes selfies

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP)—A Malaysian student whose cellphone was stolen while he was sleeping has tracked down the culprit: a monkey who took photo and video selfies with the device before abandoning it.

Zackrydz Rodzi, 20, said Wednesday that his phone was missing from his bedroom when he woke up Saturday. He found the phone's casing under his bed but there was no sign of robbery in his house in southern Johor state.

When his father saw a monkey the next day, he searched in the jungle behind his house. Using his brother's phone to call his own device, he found it covered in mud under a palm tree. But a bigger surprise came when he found a series of monkey selfies and videos recorded in the phone.

This image made from video provided by Zackrydz Rodzi shows a monkey which took a selfie holding a cellphone upside down in Batu Pahat in the southern state of Johor, Malaysia on Saturday, Sept. 12, 2020. AP

"My uncle was joking that maybe the monkey took some selfies with the phone. ... So when I checked my phone picture gallery, I was shocked. The suspect's face was plastered on the screen. It was hilarious," Zackrydz said.

He said he was curious why the monkey took the phone and not the camera or other things in his room. He said the primate must have thought it was food as it has a colorful casing.

Most of the images were blurry, but some showed the monkey's face. One of the videos taken from atop a tree showed glimpses of the monkey opening his mouth and appearing to try to eat the phone.

"My house is now in a total lockdown," Zackrydz said, laughing, adding that he didn't want a repeat of the incident.

St. Louis Zoo says python laid 7 eggs without male help

ST. LOUIS (AP) — Experts at the St. Louis Zoo are trying to figure out how a 62-year-old ball python laid seven eggs despite not being near a male python for at least two decades. Mark Wanner, manager of herpetology at the zoo, said it unusual but not rare for ball pythons to reproduce asexually. The snakes also sometimes store sperm for delayed fertilization.

This photo provided by the Saint Louis Zoo shows,a 62-year-old ball python curled up around her eggs July 23, 2020. CHAWNA SCHUETTE/SAINT LOUIS ZOO VIA AP

The birth also is unusual because ball pythons usually stop laying eggs long before they reach their 60s, Wanner said. "She'd definitely be the oldest snake we know of in history," to lay eggs, Wanner said, noting the she is the oldest snake ever documented in a zoo.

The python, which has not been given a name, laid the eggs July 23. Three of the eggs remain in an incubator, two were used for genetic sampling and snakes in the other two eggs did not survive, the St. Louis Post-Dispatch reported. The eggs that survive should hatch in about a month.

The genetic sampling will show whether the eggs were reproduced sexually or asexually, called facultative parthenogenesis. The only other ball python in the zoo's herpetarium is a male that's about 31. The snakes aren't on public view.

The private owner gave the female to the zoo in 1961. She laid a clutch of eggs in 2009 that didn't survive. Another clutch was born in 1990 but those eggs might have been conceived with the male because at the time, the snakes were put in buckets together while keepers cleaned their cages.

Bones to pick, for $8M: Stan the T rex goes up for auction

Stan, one of the largest and most complete Tyrannosaurus rex fossil discovered, is on display, Tuesday, Sept. 15, 2020, at Christie's in New York. AP

NEW YORK (AP)—He weighed at least 7 tons and had eyes the size of baseballs. His bite could have crushed a car. He bore scars from fierce prehistoric battles.

All this could be yours for as much as $8 million.

The legend of the Tyrannosaurus rex nicknamed Stan is getting fresh life thanks to Christie's. The auction house put his bones on display starting Wednesday through floor-to-ceiling windows at its midtown Manhattan gallery in advance of putting them up for auction.

"He is 37 feet long and one of the fiercest killing machines that has ever roamed the earth," said James Hyslop, head of the auction house's science and natural history department.

About 67 million years after Stan did all that roaming and killing, his remains were discovered in 1987 by paleontologist Stan Sacrison in a geological area in the Midwest known as the Cretaceous Badlands.

The fossils became known for forming one of the most intact dinosaur skeletons ever discovered. Researchers also marveled at how the skull had large puncture wounds, speculating that they were the result of T. rex warfare.

The skeleton—being put up for sale by the Black Hills Institute in South Dakota—will remain on display through Oct. 21 at Christie's flagship location at Rockefeller Center. The auction is set for Oct. 6.

Hyslop assured potential buyers that Stan "is being offered with no reserve. So absolutely everyone has a shot at him."

Oops: VP Mike Pence missing from some Michigan ballots

LANSING, Mich. (AP)—President Donald Trump ... and "Spike?"

Local election clerks in Michigan downloading absentee ballots for residents overseas were given ballots that listed Trump's Republican running mate as Jeremy Cohen, who is the Libertarian Party candidate for vice president, the Michigan secretary of state's office said.

Pence

Vice President Mike Pence wasn't on the ballot next to Trump. Cohen, whose nickname is "Spike," is running with Jo Jorgensen.

It was a "temporary error" that was fixed within 90 minutes Tuesday, said Tracy Wimmer, a spokeswoman for Michigan Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson.

"Approximately 400 ballots were downloaded by clerks during this period; we don't know how many were sent," Wimmer said. Clerks were told to issue correct ballots and tell voters to ignore the erroneous ballot if they received one.

"If a voter does happen to return the incorrect ballot instead of the correct ballot, it will still count. The clerk will be instructed to duplicate a vote for Trump onto a ballot for Trump/Pence," Wimmer said. Cohen had some fun with the mistake.

"They better fix these ballots," he tweeted. "I'd hate to help Trump's chances." The city clerk in Livonia, Susan Nash, said her office hasn't downloaded any erroneous ballots, but she has heard about the problem.

"I think it's embarrassing. ... It's just one more thing for clerks to take care of," Nash told the Detroit Free Press.

Sheriff: Fleeing suspect abandons winning lottery ticket

CANTON, Ga. (AP) — A suspect in Georgia left his good luck behind when he abandoned a winning lottery ticket while fleeing sheriff's deputies.

The Cherokee County Sheriff's Office says the man had a Georgia Lottery scratch game card worth $100 when he ran away during a traffic stop on Interstate 75 on Monday.

In a Facebook post, it offered its congratulations and invited him to claim the ticket at its office in Canton about 40 miles (64 kilometers) north of Atlanta.

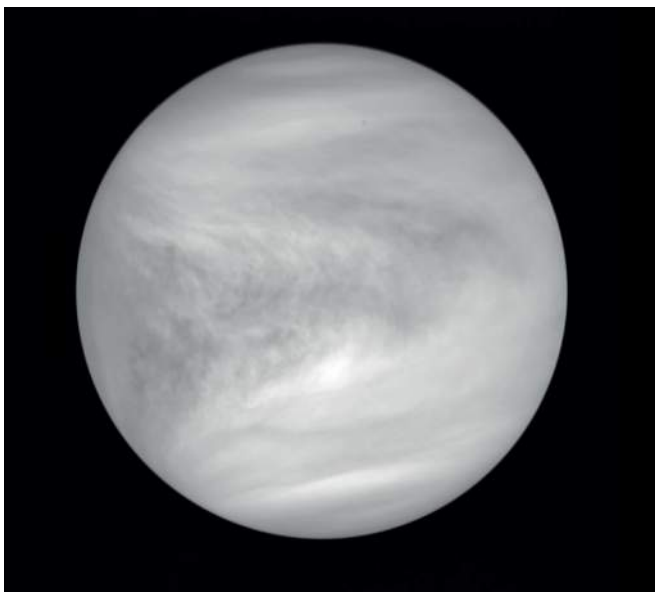
The man, who was not identified, was later taken into custody, sheriff's spokesman Capt. Jay Baker told the Atlanta Journal-Constitution

Baker said the man was a passenger in a vehicle that was pulled over for a tag violation, and he ran into the woods. The lottery ticket was in a backpack that also had methamphetamine, according to Baker. The man can have the lottery ticket back, but the sheriff's office said it will keep the drugs.

Science & Technology

Astronomers see possible hints of life in Venus' clouds

By SETH BORENSTEIN
AP SCIENCE WRITER



AP

This May 2016 photo provided by researcher Jane Greaves shows the planet Venus, seen from the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency's Akatsuki probe.

Astronomers have found a potential sign of life high in the atmosphere of neighboring Venus: hints there may be bizarre microbes living in the sulfuric acid-laden clouds of the hothouse planet.

Two telescopes in Hawaii and Chile spotted in the thick Venusian clouds the chemical signature of phosphine, a noxious gas that on Earth is only associated with life, according to a study in Monday's journal Nature Astronomy.

Several outside experts—and the study authors themselves—agreed this is tantalizing but said it is far from the first proof of life on another planet. They said it doesn't satisfy the "extraordinary claims require extraordinary evidence" standard established by the late Carl Sagan, who speculated about the possibility of life in the clouds of Venus in 1967.

"It's not a smoking gun," said study co-author David Clements, an Imperial College of London astrophysicist. "It's not even gunshot residue on the hands of your prime suspect, but there is a distinct whiff of cordite in the air which may be suggesting something."

As astronomers plan for searches for life on planets outside our solar system, a major method is to look for chemical signatures that can only be made by biological processes, called biosignatures. After three astronomers met in a bar in Hawaii, they decided to look that way at the closest planet to Earth: Venus. They searched for phosphine, which is three hydrogen atoms and a phosphorous atom.

On Earth, there are only two ways phosphine can be formed, study authors said. One is in an industrial process. (The gas was produced for use as chemical warfare agent in World War I.) The other way is as part of some kind of poorly understood function in animals and microbes. Some scientists consider it a waste product, others don't.

Phosphine is found in "ooze at the bottom of ponds, the guts of some creatures like badgers and perhaps most unpleasantly associated with piles of penguin guano," Clements said.

Study co-author Sara Seager, an MIT planetary scientist, said researchers "exhaustively went through every possibility and ruled all of them out: volcanoes, lightning strikes, small meteorites falling into the atmosphere. ... Not a single process we looked at could produce phosphine in high enough quantities to explain our team's findings."

That leaves life.

The astronomers hypothesize a scenario for how life could exist on the inhospitable planet where temperatures on the surface are around 800 degrees (425 degrees Celsius) with no water.

"Venus is hell. Venus is kind of Earth's evil twin," Clements said. "Clearly something has gone wrong, very wrong, with Venus. It's the victim of a runaway greenhouse effect."

But that's on the surface.

Seager said all the action may be 30 miles (50 kilometers) above ground in the thick carbon-dioxide layer cloud deck, where it's about room temperature or slightly warmer. It contains droplets with tiny amounts of water but mostly sulfuric acid that is a billion times more acidic than what's found on Earth.

The phosphine could be coming from some kind of microbes, probably single-cell ones, inside those sulfuric acid droplets, living their entire lives in the 10-mile-deep (16-kilometer-deep) clouds, Seager and Clements said. When the droplets fall, the potential life probably dries out and could then get picked up in another drop and reanimate, they said.

Life is definitely a possibility, but more proof is needed, several outside scientists said.

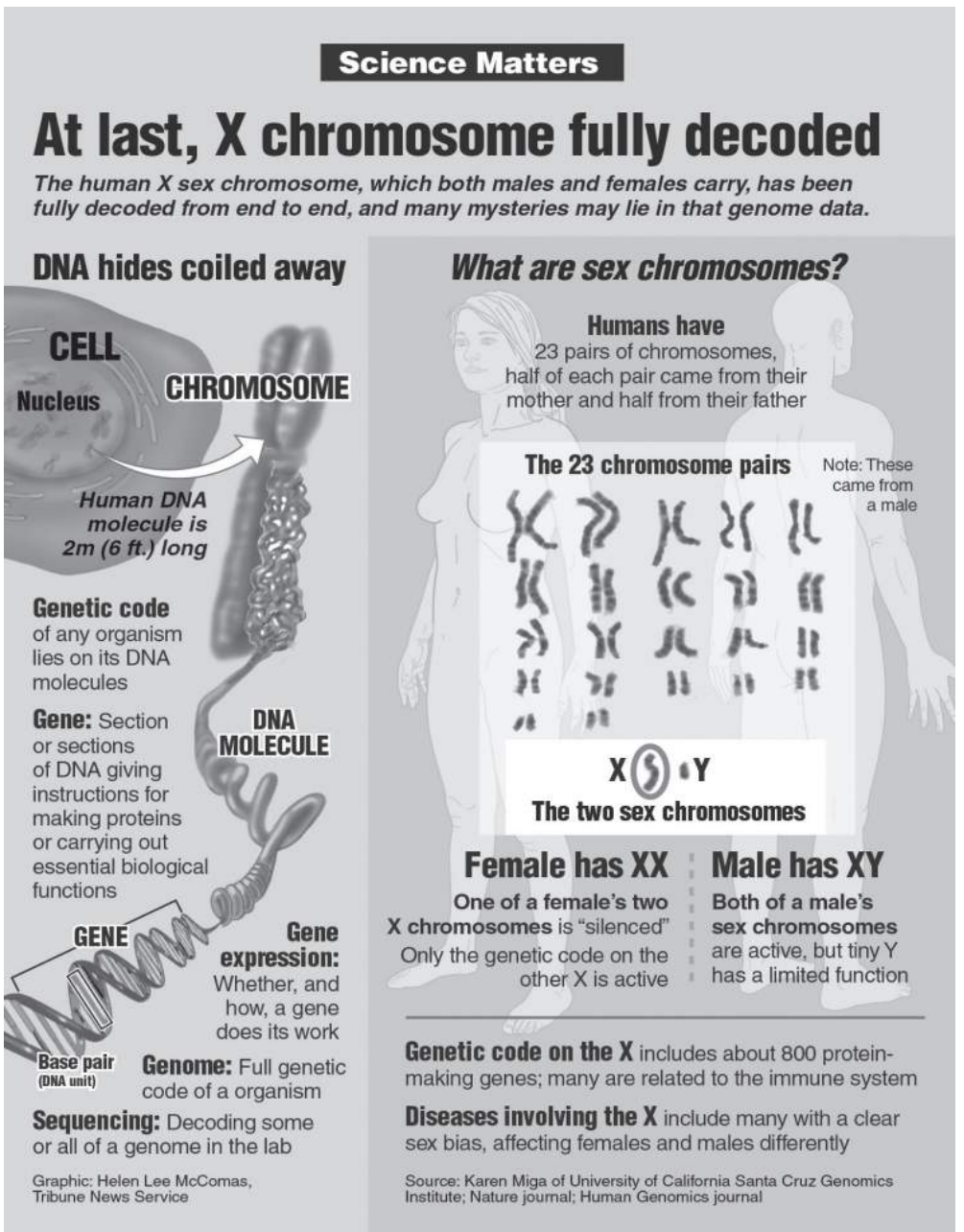
Cornell University astronomer Lisa Kaltenegger said the idea of this being the signature of biology at work is exciting, but she said we don't know enough about Venus to say life is the only explanation for the phosphine.

"I'm not skeptical, I'm hesitant," said Justin Filiberto, a planetary geochemist at the Lunar and Planetary Institute in Houston who specializes in Venus and Mars and isn't part of the study team.

Filiberto said the levels of phosphine found might be explained away by volcanoes. He said recent studies that were not taken into account in this latest research suggest that Venus may have far more active volcanoes than originally thought. But Clements said that explanation would make sense only if Venus were at least 200 times as volcanically active as Earth.

David Grinspoon, a Washington-based astrobiologist at the Planetary Science Institute who wrote a 1997 book suggesting Venus could harbor life, said the finding "almost seems too good to be true."

"I'm excited, but I'm also cautious," Grinspoon said. "We found an encouraging sign that demands we follow up."


Science Matters
At last, X chromosome fully decoded
The human X sex chromosome, which both males and females carry, has been fully decoded from end to end, and many mysteries may lie in that genome data.
DNA hides coiled away
CELL
Nucleus
CHROMOSOME
Human DNA molecule is 2m (6 ft.) long
Genetic code of any organism lies on its DNA molecules
Gene: Section or sections of DNA giving instructions for making proteins or carrying out essential biological functions
DNA MOLECULE
GENE
Gene expression: Whether, and how, a gene does its work
Base pair (DNA unit)
Genome: Full genetic code of a organism
Sequencing: Decoding some or all of a genome in the lab
Graphic: Helen Lee McComas, Tribune News Service
What are sex chromosomes?
Humans have 23 pairs of chromosomes, half of each pair came from their mother and half from their father
The 23 chromosome pairs
Note: These came from a male
X Y
The two sex chromosomes
Female has XX
One of a female's two X chromosomes is "silenced" Only the genetic code on the other X is active
Male has XY
Both of a male's sex chromosomes are active, but tiny Y has a limited function
Genetic code on the X includes about 800 protein-making genes; many are related to the immune system
Diseases involving the X include many with a clear sex bias, affecting females and males differently
Source: Karen Miga of University of California Santa Cruz Genomics Institute; Nature journal; Human Genomics journal

TECH Q&A: Cloud storage can help you recover from a hacked PC

By STEVE ALEXANDER
Star Tribune (Minneapolis)

Steve Alexander covers technology for the Minneapolis Star Tribune*. Readers may write to him at Tech Q&A, 425 Portland Ave. S., Minneapolis, Minn. 55488-0002; email: steve.j.alexander@gmail.com. Please include a full name, city and phone number.*

Q: We use Google Drive and Microsoft OneDrive to continuously back up the files on our two computers. If our computers were infected with malware or suffered a ransomware attack (in which files are encrypted until you pay a ransom), would these cloud backup services be affected, too?

Also, can I recover cloud-based files that I accidentally delete?

A: If your PC is attacked by malware or ransomware, your damaged or encrypted files would be automatically backed up to Microsoft OneDrive or Google Drive, making the problem worse.

But it would be only a temporary setback, because both online services keep backups of previous versions of your files (from before the attack on your PCs began.)

As a result, once the malware or ransomware was removed from your computer you could download untainted previous versions of your files from Google Drive and OneDrive. To learn how to do that, see tinyurl.com/yxagtbug and tinyurl.com/yy33gqp6 for Google Drive, and see tinyurl.com/y63sa9bd and tinyurl.com/y5oagtl7 for Microsoft OneDrive.

Both online storage services have their own trash folder or recycle bin. So, if you accidentally delete an online file you can get it back from the trash for up to 30 days.

Q: Photos that I text from my iPhone 6 are being sent via iCloud instead of directly from my phone number. But not all my text recipients can access those iCloud photos. What can I do?

A: Your Apple texting service, called iMessage, probably isn't set up correctly. As a result, your text messages are being rerouted through iCloud. To the people who receive your texts, the messages appear to come from your iCloud e-mail address.

But if you make some settings changes, your texts will be sent from your phone number. Go to Settings and click Messages. Use the "switch" to turn on iMessage, and make sure that "Send & Receive" shows your phone number. (If your phone number isn't visible, click "Send & Receive." In the next menu, add your number under "You can receive iMessages to and reply from." Switch the check mark from "use your Apple ID for iMessage" to your phone number.)

Q: I have three Windows 10 PCs and one Windows 7 PC on my home network. I know that the Windows 7 PC is vulnerable to hacking because Microsoft stopped providing security updates in January. But I've kept it because it handles the online program guides for our TV and another PC that we use for home theater. Is there a way to isolate the Windows 7 PC from the others on the network, so that a hacker attack on it won't affect the other PCs?

A: All your PCs share an internet-connected home network, which means they can all talk to the outside world and to each other. If your Windows 7 PC was hacked, it could be used to attack your other PCs as well as to cause trouble online. While there are technical ways to isolate your Windows 7 PC from the others, I don't recommend them for the average person. (For details, see tinyurl.com/ya4ttl3x and tinyurl.com/y4x87gpk).

Life & Style

Carrie Underwood, Thomas Rhett tie for top prize at ACMs

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—In surprise twist that fit an unexpected year of firsts, Carrie Underwood and Thomas Rhett tied for entertainer of the year at the Academy of Country Music Awards, the first time the top prize has been split between two artists.

Underwood and Rhett seemed equally taken aback after host Keith Urban announced the tie at the awards show held at the Grand Ole Opry House in Nashville, Tennessee, on Wednesday.

"Keith, what is happening right now?" Rhett asked, astounded, before thanking his family. Underwood appeared right after him remarking, "2020, man?" before adding, "I am more than happy to share this with Thomas Rhett."

The show on CBS had been delayed for months because of the pandemic, moved from Las Vegas to Nashville for the first time and held without audiences in empty venues. There was a lot of anticipation for the show, which featured Taylor Swift making her first appearance at the ACMs in seven years.

Underwood's win is her third total in that category and Rhett's first win. They beat out other nominees Eric Church, Luke Bryan and Luke Combs. Coincidentally, a woman hasn't won that award since 2011 when Swift last won it. Swift delivered a simple acoustic performance of "betty" from her new album "Folklore," on a darkened Opry House stage.

Combs still went home a winner by picking up album of the year and male artist of the year. After amassing tremendous streaming numbers and nine consecutive No. 1 country radio hits, Combs thanked fans for their support from the Bluebird Cafe.

Texas man sentenced to prison for stalking Taylor Swift

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—A federal judge has sentenced an Austin, Texas, man to 30 months in prison after he pleaded guilty to stalking and sending threatening letters and emails to pop star Taylor Swift's former record label.

According to records filed in federal court, Eric Swarbrick was given the sentence during a hearing Wednesday in Nashville. The terms of the sentence, which also includes three years of supervised release, were agreed on by prosecutors in a plea agreement that Swarbrick entered in 2019.

The complaint said Swarbrick sent over 40 letters and emails to Big Machine Label Group in 2018, asking the CEO to introduce him to Swift. Over time the letters became more violent and threatening. On three occasions Swarbrick drove to Nashville to personally deliver them.

Cardi B files for divorce from Migos' rapper Offset

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Cardi B has filed for divorce from Migos' rapper Offset, claiming her marriage was "irretrievably broken."

The Grammy-winning rapper filed the divorce documents Tuesday in Atlanta, according to a Fulton County Courthouse filing. She said there are "no prospects for a reconciliation" for marriage with Offset.

Cardi B, using her birth name Belcalis Marlenis Almanzar, is seeking primary physical and legal custody of their 2-year-old daughter, Kulture. She also wants Offset, whose real name is Kiari Kendrell Cephus, to pay child support and her legal expenses.

The hip-hop stars have had a rocky marriage since they secretly wed in 2017. The couple broke up the following year, but eventually decided to work things out.

An email seeking comment was sent to her representatives.

A hearing in the case is scheduled for Nov. 4.

'The Nest' author has new novel scheduled for 2021

NEW YORK (AP)—The author of the million-selling debut novel "The Nest" has another story of family drama coming out next year.

Ecco announced Wednesday that Cynthia D'Aprix Sweeney's "Good Company" will be published in May. The novel tells of a seemingly happy married couple whose relationship is upended when the wife comes upon the wedding ring her husband, who runs a theater called Good Company, had said he lost years ago.

In a statement issued through her publisher, Sweeney called "Good Company" a story of "enduring love and friendship, of the peril of secrets, and of the relationships that both wound and heal us."

Sweeney's "The Nest," about four feuding siblings and the money they hope to inherit, was published in 2016 and was anticipated from the start. Sweeney received a seven-figure advance and "The Nest" became one of the year's most talked about novels. Amazon Films acquired the movie rights, and Emily V. Gordon, who co-wrote "The Big Sick," is working on the screenplay.

Restorers uncover new details in a Michelangelo Pieta

ROME (AP)—A restoration of one of Michelangelo's sculptures of the Madonna and Christ has uncovered previously unknown details, including the artist's tool marks, that had been hidden under centuries of dust and wax.

Florence's Museo dell'Opera del Duomo said Wednesday that the cleaning of the Bandini Pieta, which began last year but was suspended because of the coronavirus pandemic, had resumed and that the public was now invited in small groups to come watch restorers at work.

The cleaning, the first known restoration of the sculpture, is painstaking: Restorers are using cotton swabs dipped in deionized hot water to dislodge the accumulated scum from the crevices of the huge piece of Carrara marble.

Michelangelo carved the Bandini Pieta between 1547-1555, when he was nearly 80. It's the third known Pieta by the Renaissance master. An earlier one is in the Vatican, near the entry of St. Peter's Basilica, and a later version, known as the Rondanini Pieta, is in a museum in Milan.

The Florence museum said that unlike the other two Pietas, where Christ's body is held up only by his mother, the Christ figure in the Bandini Pieta is held up also by Mary Magdalene and the biblical character Nicodemus, whose face is a self-portrait of Michelangelo himself.

(CLAUDIO GIOVANNINI/OPERA DI SANTA MARIA DEL FIORE VIA AP)

Restorers work on one of Michelangelo's Pieta sculpture in Florence, Italy, Tuesday, Sept. 8, 2020. A restoration of one of Michelangelo's Pieta sculptures has uncovered previously unknown details, including the artist's tool marks, that had been hidden under centuries of dust and wax. Florence's Museo dell'Opera del Duomo said Wednesday, Sept. 16, 2020 that the cleaning of the Bandini Pieta, which began last year but was suspended because of the coronavirus pandemic, had resumed and that the public was now invited to watch restorers at work. Michelangelo carved the Bandini Pieta between 1547-1555, when he was nearly 80.

Newly sober mom regrets pain she caused her family

DEAR ABBY: After smoking marijuana for 20 years, I quit two days ago. My head is starting to clear now, and things are coming into focus. I missed so much, and I feel terrible about it.

How many times did I say no to my kids because I was lazy? How many times have I yelled at them for just asking a question? My 6-year-old would have this frightened look because he wanted something and I yelled because he interrupted me from doing nothing.

I was at my in-laws' on Father's Day and started yelling at my husband for getting mad at me because I told his father, "Heck, you're not my dad, so what do I care?" The neighbors heard me, I'm sure. My father-in-law didn't even come out of his bedroom, and I'm sure my husband won't forget it.

Although I'm not the nicest to him at times, he loves me. I can be downright disrespectful, and my kids see this. It's the reason I quit smoking. Almost daily, I hear my 13-year-old say, "Stop yelling, Mom," or, "Why are you yelling, Mom?" I have so many regrets.

Can I make up for them? What can I do so my kids will remember good times and not just me yelling? Not sure where or how to start erasing the bad. Any advice would be appreciated.

SMOKE IS CLEARING

DEAR SMOKE: You have already taken the first step in making it up to your family by admitting your smoking was hurting them and quitting. The next step will be to apologize to each of your family members for your behavior and let them know you know it was wrong and hurtful and that it won't continue.

The last steps may be the most difficult. Resolve not to lapse back into the old patterns, do whatever is necessary to prevent it and join a support group if necessary. I wish you success in your sobriety.

DEAR ABBY: My brother and sister-in-law adopted their child at birth. It was something I assumed the baby would grow up knowing. Unfortunately, it has never been revealed to the child, and the "child" is now practically an adult. I know it isn't my place to say anything, but the truth hangs over me like a dark cloud, and I feel complicit in the lie.

My children, who are younger, don't know, and I worry that if they ever discover it, they will think my partner and I are liars and resent us for not being honest all these years.

This is a sensitive subject to broach to my brother and his wife. I have tried and been met with yelling and tears. Is there anything to be done at this point?

GUILTY BY ASSOCIATION

DEAR GUILTY: Although I wholeheartedly agree that children who are adopted should be told at an early age, the decision to reveal or withhold that information resides with the parents, not you. At some point, their child may need accurate information for medical reasons.

How your children could think you and your partner are liars for not telling them something that's really none of their business mystifies me. There is NOTHING for you to do at this point, so please resist the urge to venture further into this minefield.

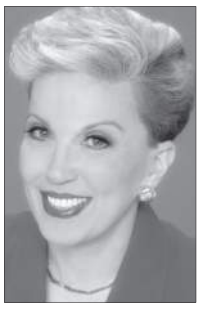
TO MY READERS: As the sun sets tonight, Rosh Hashana, the Jewish New Year, begins. As we begin this time of solemn introspection, let me wish you all, "L'shana tova tikatevu"— may you be inscribed in the Book of Life and have a good year.

Love, ABBY

Good advice for everyone – teens to seniors – is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

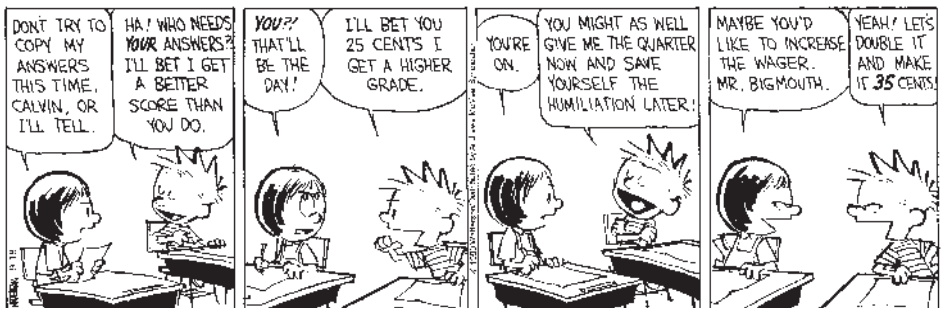


Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


DON'T TRY TO COPY MY ANSWERS THIS TIME, CALVIN, OR I'LL TELL.
HA! WHO NEEDS YOUR ANSWERS? I'LL BET I GET A BETTER SCORE THAN YOU DO.
YOU?! THAT'LL BE THE DAY!
I'LL BET YOU 25 CENTS I GET A HIGHER GRADE.
YOU'RE ON.
YOU MIGHT AS WELL GIVE ME THE QUARTER NOW AND SAVE YOURSELF THE HUMILIATION LATER!
MAYBE YOU'D LIKE TO INCREASE THE WAGER, MR. BIGMOUTH.
YEAH! LET'S DOUBLE IT AND MAKE IT 35 CENTS.

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

LIZ, WERE YOU POPULAR IN HIGH SCHOOL?
SURE. WERE YOU?
UH...YEAH
THEY HATED TO SEE ME LEAVE!
THE BULLIES FLEW HIS UNDERWEAR AT HALF-STAFF
JIM DAVIS 9-18

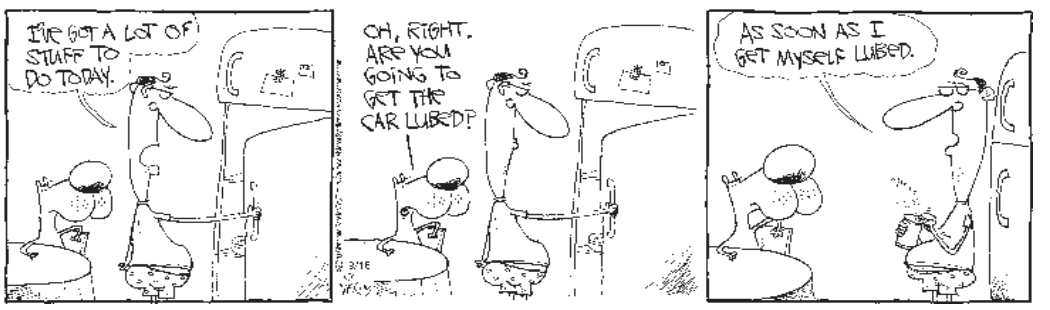
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

WAIT. KATY'S USING DUCT TAPE TO WAX DAD'S BACK??
IN THE NEXT ROOM. YES.
WON'T THAT BE HOURS OF HORRIBLE PAIN?
OH, NO! THEY DECIDED TO MAKE ONE BIG PATCH OVER HIS ENTIRE BACK AND DO IT IN ONE QUICK PULL.
SO YOU'VE MADE POPCORN AND DIALED 9 AND 1, RIGHT?
WHAT AM I, NEW?
9/18

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

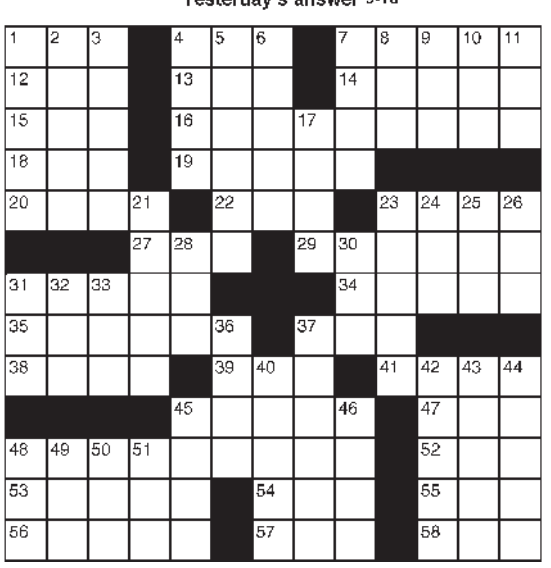
ACROSS
1 Witty one
4 Bouquets-to-order co.
7 Argentine grassland
12 "I love," to Livy
13 "Entourage" character
14 Virginia Woolf's "— of One's Own"
15 Illuminated
16 Edible sugar crystals
18 Potent stick
19 Sacred song
20 Web-based conferencing app
22 Crony
23 Pen pals?
27 Golf's Ernie
29 Goober
31 "Star Trek" doctor
34 Spoiled kids
35 Spider's creation
37 TV schedule abbr.
38 Privation
39 Wall St. deal
41 Clear the decks?
45 Humdingers
47 — carte
48 Drywall brand
52 Ballot marks
53 Picked a target
54 Greek letter
55 Night before
56 Affirmatives
57 Wd. from Roget
58 — Moines

DOWN
1 Viennese dance
2 Acid type
3 Reached
4 Rural tract
5 Girl Scout units
6 Formal decrees
7 Treaty
8 Altar constellation
9 Calendar abbr.
10 Group of seals
11 "Little Women" woman
17 Iodine source
21 Cat calls?
23 Legal aides, briefly
24 Pig-poke link
25 Belly
26 Map lines (Abbr.)
28 Caustic solution
30 Recede
31 Roman 1150
32 Bill's partner
33 "NCIS" airer
36 Fuzzy image
37 Thin-skinned
40 Voting groups
42 Like shiny floors
43 Tylenol rival
44 Diamond corners
45 Classic Fords
46 Epidermis
48 Utter
49 Hasten
50 Type measures
51 Shoe width

Solution time: 25 mins.

C	E	L			S	P	S		I	E	A	S
A	_	I		H	A	L	T		E	D	G	E
L	I	S	T	E	N	E	R		C	I	T	E
		A	I	M		D	U	C	H	E	S	S
W	I	I	I	F	ↄ		M	A	I			
I	T	O		S	O	Y		D	F	M	O	N
D	E	E	R		T	A	J		S	A	L	E
E	M	B	E	D		P	O	I		R	E	ↄ
			S	F	A		F	D	I	S	O	N
W	F	R	C	A	S	T		T	R	A		
E	C	R	U		I	S	R	A	E	L		S
S	H	O	E		ↄ	A	N	G		I	C	I
T	O	W	S		C	R	A	S		S	U	B

Yesterday's answer 9-18



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Jason Sudeikis, 45; James Marsden, 47; Jada Pinkett Smith, 49; Aisha Tyler, 50.

Happy Birthday: Stick to your game plan this year, and don't look back. Striving to reach your goal will be satisfying and rewarding in terms of what you accomplish. Making a move that will add to your comfort and peace of mind will help you build a strong base on which to build your life as you move forward. Your experience will pay off. Your numbers are 6, 13, 22, 25, 33, 36, 48.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Pay attention to the way you present yourself. Show interest in what others do, and you will gain an ally as well as respect. The changes you make will unfold the way you want if you reach out for help. ✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Keep life simple; if you try to do too much, you will lose sight of your goal. Enlist the help of those you know you can trust, and you will accomplish what you set out to do. A change looks promising. ✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Learn from an experience, and watch your back. Don't expect others to come through for you or to take on your burdens. A lesson will come into play if you are too liberal with the way you do things. Moderation is encouraged. ✪✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* An incident will lead to an inability to agree with someone close to you. Joint ventures will not unfold the way you want. Recap what's important to you, and head in a direction that will help you achieve your goal. ✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Spend more time taking care of personal and family matters. Have a heart-to-heart talk with a friend or relative, and you will be able to sort out any differences you face. Love and romance are featured and will enhance your life. ✪✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Mix business with pleasure, and you'll improve your work relationships. Being a good listener will put you in a favorable position for advancement. Using what you know as leverage will help you enlist the support required to follow your dream. ✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Check your emotions at the door when dealing with domestic matters. Expect to face uncertainty and opposition, but don't let that deter you from using your persuasive and intelligent powers to get your way. Incentives will seal the deal. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Pay closer attention to health and emotional well-being. Focus on where your energy is most useful, and stop procrastinating when it comes to personal paperwork you've let linger too long. A push for change is in your best interest. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Connect with the people you work alongside. Mix business with pleasure, and get to know your peers better. Familiarity will stifle others. A commitment to someone you love will lead to long-term plans and greater happiness. ✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Watch what you say. If you reveal personal opinions, likes and dislikes, it will give someone the upper hand. Take in information rather than dish it out. Knowledge is power and will help you take control of whatever situation you encounter. ✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Contracts, agreements and prospects require your attention. Consider your relationship with the people you are involved with emotionally, financially and legally. Make adjustments to protect your interests and your future. Romance and commitment will help seal a deal. ✪✪✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Call in favors, offer help and align yourself with people you feel comfortable working alongside. A change to the way you do business will help determine who is the best fit to assist you in what you want to pursue. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are determined, engaging and intuitive. You are flexible and charismatic.

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SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	9					2		
			4		5			
8			1		2			7
	4	7			8	6		
	6	1			2	4		
9			5		1			8
			2		9			
	3					5		

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 9/18

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

9	8	5	6	4	2	1	3	7
1	6	7	8	3	5	2	9	4
3	4	2	1	9	7	5	8	6
4	2	8	7	5	6	9	1	3
7	3	9	2	1	4	8	6	5
6	5	1	3	8	9	7	4	2
8	9	6	5	2	3	4	7	1
2	7	4	9	6	1	3	5	8
5	1	3	4	7	8	6	2	9

Difficulty Level ★★★

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

ALL SORTS OF FANS — Solution: 11 letters

R	T	L	O	U	D	O	Ⓓ	N	Y	E	K	C	O	H
E	E	A	E	Z	E	Ⓔ	R	B	S	R	O	I	V	C
W	G	C	S	E	Ⓢ	U	G	P	T	O	I	S	O	S
O	D	I	H	Ⓚ	T	U	A	E	L	O	L	U	L	B
L	A	T	C	A	R	T	N	I	H	L	P	M	T	U
L	G	I	B	E	R	N	N	L	A	F	U	U	A	L
O	F	L	W	O	I	G	I	T	N	E	R	R	U	C
F	S	O	N	S	X	L	E	N	D	B	S	E	T	O
D	L	P	L	O	E	I	I	A	I	I	U	I	G	L
B	E	P	O	D	P	N	N	N	B	M	I	C	N	L
S	F	V	O	R	I	E	E	G	G	L	T	N	I	E
T	O	M	O	W	T	N	R	T	Y	P	E	A	H	C
R	O	T	A	T	E	S	G	A	M	E	S	F	S	T
A	D	T	O	W	E	R	E	R	I	M	D	A	I	O
G	S	S	S	E	L	E	D	A	L	B	U	F	F	R

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Admirer, Arts, Bladeless, Blower, Boxing, Breeze, Buff, Ceiling, Clubs, Collector, Cooling, Current, Desk, Devotee, Fancier, Fishing, Floor, Folding, Follower, Foods, Gadget, Games, Hand, Hockey, Loud, Mini, Model, Music, Opera, Patron, Political, Power, Pursuit, Rechargeable, Rotates, Rugby, Sports, Tennis, Tower, Turbine, Turn, Type, Uses, Volt

Yesterday's Answer: Seaweed

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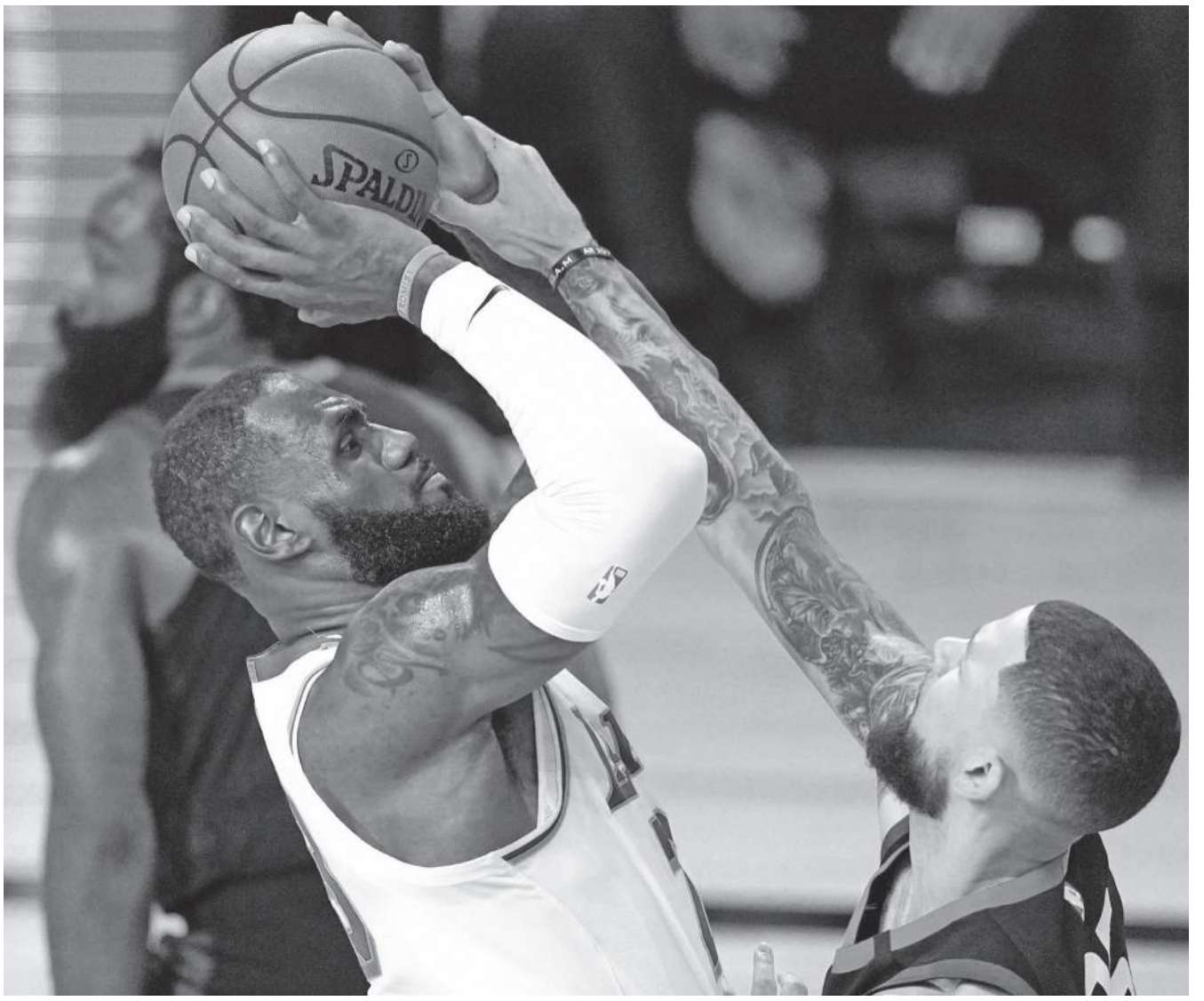
LeBron in All-NBA team for record 16th time



AP
Los Angeles Lakers' LeBron James, left, shoots over Houston Rockets' Austin Rivers during the second half of an NBA conference semifinal playoff game Saturday, Sept. 12, 2020, in Lake Buena Vista, Fla.

FLORIDA (AP)—LeBron James now stands alone in All-NBA recognition history, getting there unanimously.

James was revealed Wednesday as an All-NBA player for a record 16th time, breaking the mark he shared with Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, Kobe Bryant and Tim Duncan. He was a first-team pick on all 100 ballots, joining Milwaukee's Giannis Antetokounmpo as the only unanimous first-team selections this season.

Joining them on the first team: Houston guard James Harden, Lakers forward Anthony Davis and Dallas guard Luka Doncic, who got the nod in just his second season in the NBA -- becoming the first player to get there in either his first or second season since Duncan did for San Antonio. Duncan was first-team in each of his first eight NBA seasons, starting in 1997-98 and going through 2004-05.

The 21-year-old Doncic is the sixth player to make All-NBA at that age or younger, joining Kevin Durant, James, Duncan, Rick Barry and Max Zaslofsky.

James is a first-team pick for the 13th time in his career, extending his record there. Bryant and Karl Malone were 11-time first-teamers. Antetokounmpo, the reigning MVP and the frontrunner to win the award again this season, was picked unanimously for the second consecutive year.

Los Angeles Clippers forward Kawhi Leonard, Denver center Nikola Jokic, Portland guard Damian Lillard, Oklahoma City guard Chris Paul and Toronto forward Pascal Siakam were on the second team.

The third-team picks were Boston forward Jayson Tatum, Miami forward Jimmy Butler, Utah center Rudy Gobert, Philadelphia guard Ben Simmons and Houston guard Russell Westbrook.

Paul and Westbrook are now nine-time All-NBA players, Harden a six-time choice, Lillard is a five-timer and Antetokounmpo, Leonard and Davis are four-time selections. Butler and Gobert are three-time selections, Jokic a two-time choice and Siakam, Tatum and Simmons all joined Doncic as being on the team for the first time.

Harden and Doncic appeared on all 100 ballots—though only James and Antetokounmpo were unanimous as first-team choices on every ballot. Davis and Jokic were on 99 ballots, and Leonard appeared on 98.

The voting was conducted based on regular-season games played through March 11, and voters had to choose two guards, two forwards and one center for each team. Milwaukee forward Khris Middleton did not make All-NBA even though he appeared on more ballots (60) than Simmons (43) and Westbrook (38); they made the team as guards. Philadelphia's Joel Embiid got 39 votes and did not make the team either, after finishing fourth among centers.

Middleton led forwards who didn't make the team in votes, Embiid did the same for centers and Washington's Bradley Beal (26 votes) did the same for guards. Beal posted the 24th season in NBA history where someone finished with averages of at least 30 points and six assists—and became the first of those 24 to not make an All-NBA team.

76ers want D'Antoni

The Pacers were reportedly expected to hire Mike D'Antoni as coach.

But league sources are saying he backed away from the Pacers gig because the Sixers' interest is real. 69-year-old would have to bomb his interview with the Sixers owners not to be offered the job, and said D'Antoni is the candidate they want. A team source denied that, saying the ownership won't know who it wants until candidates are interviewed.

It's getting difficult to find the true story amid all the smoke.

D'Antoni was on the outs with the Rockets since last year. Brett Brown also spent all season on the hot seat, and speculation especially intensified in the bubble. How did the 76ers' interest catch D'Antoni off guard?

Likewise, Philadelphia would've known for a while if D'Antoni were its prime candidate. He used to be a 76ers assistant coach. People in the organization know him well.

So was the Indiana rumor the smokescreen? Or is this? Everyone is trying to gain leverage with Tyronn Lue also on the market. Philadelphia doesn't want to alienate other candidates, including former Thunder coach Billy Donovan, until finalizing a deal.

D'Antoni is an excellent coach when he has players who fit his system and a poor coach otherwise. He requires players who create space and pressure through speed (not necessarily in terms of pace, but also with active movement and crisp passing within sets).

Maybe D'Antoni would succeed with Joel Embiid or Ben Simmons. But probably not both. And Philadelphia plans to build around both.

Al Horford adds to the big-man logjam. Even Tobias Harris, who could thrive at power forward in a D'Antoni system, could just be an ill-fitting small forward because of the rest of the roster. With Horford and Harris on expensive contracts, it will be difficult to retool.

Maybe D'Antoni has some creative ideas to get the 76ers to a higher level. He has proven capable of innovation, and it makes sense to interview him.

It's tougher to justify being smitten with him before even hearing his plan for this roster.

Meanwhile, the Sacramento Kings reportedly are heading in a new direction.

Houston Rockets assistant general manager Monte McNair has been named the Kings' new general manager and lead basketball executive, according to The Athletic's Shams Charania and Sam Amick.

McNair, who has spent the last 13 years working his way up through the Rockets' front office under Daryl Morey, will replace Vlade Divac as the Kings' front man after the Hall of Fame center stepped away from the team in mid-August.

The Princeton grad began his career in Houston as a basketball operations senior analyst in 2007, after leaving STATS LLC (now Stats Perform). McNair has held the titles of director of basketball operations, vice president of basketball operations and was most recently promoted to assistant GM in 2018.

Nuggets getting used to underdogs tag

FLORIDA (AP)—Just about everyone had L.A. vs. L.A. written in for the Western Conference finals.

Then along came the resilient Denver Nuggets, who crashed the party.

Behind Jamal Murray and Nikola Jokic, the Nuggets advanced to the conference finals for the first time since 2009. They will face LeBron James and the Los Angeles Lakers starting Friday in Game 1.

But this was no ordinary road. The Nuggets fell behind 3-1 in their first-round series against Utah before bouncing back with three straight victories. Then they went down 3-1 to the Los Angeles Clippers in the second round before winning in Game 7 again.

They made history, too, becoming the first NBA team to rally from a 3-1 series deficit twice in the same postseason.

As expected, Denver is an underdog against the Lakers. Murray & Co. are used to it.

"Everybody counts us out. It's fun to silence everybody," Murray said. "We love it."

The last time the Nuggets were in the conference finals they faced the Lakers as well, losing in six games. That squad was coached by George Karl and boasted Chauncey Billups and Carmelo Anthony. The Lakers were led by the late Kobe Bryant and would go on to win the NBA title over Orlando.

This time, Denver features a play-making point guard in Murray and a center who thinks of himself as a point guard in Jokic.

Combined, they've helped the Nuggets go 6-0 in elimination games this postseason. Pressure doesn't bother them.

"It's just fun, the journey," Jokic said. "This is an interesting team. We don't have many superstars."

Actually, they have two burgeoning stars in Murray and Jokic. In the Game 7 win over the Clippers, Murray scored 40 points while Jokic finished with 16 points, 13 assists and 22 rebounds.

The Nuggets are playing with an abundance of confidence, no matter the deficit. They were down by double digits in Games 5, 6 and 7 but came back to win each time.

"We are not accepting that someone is better than us," said Jokic, whose squad beat San Antonio last season in Game 7 before losing to Portland in seven games. "They really need to beat us and need to play much better than us. ... When we start playing for each other and you see the ball is flowing and the defense and everybody has everyone's back, it's really fun."

Denver certainly quieted the noise around the Clippers, who hoped the additions of Kawhi Leonard and Paul George would lead them to their first-ever conference finals—and beyond. But LA's stars fell flat.

"It hurts. It hurts. But we move on," George said. "Year 1 together, first run together, of course we wanted to win this. But we've been very optimistic about us being together and building something going down the road."

After a quick celebration Tuesday—of the win and coach Michael Malone's 49th birthday—the Nuggets will be ready to get back to business.

"We know what we got," Murray said. "We're a top-four team in the league and we're trying to push to be No. 1. ... We've got a squad that we believe in each other and know we can go out there and win it."

Dodgers beat Padres to clinch postseason berth

SAN DIEGO (AP)—The Los Angeles Dodgers became the first team to clinch a playoff spot in the pandemic-shortened season, beating the San Diego Padres 7-5 Wednesday behind Dustin May's gutty effort out of the bullpen and home runs from AJ Pollock and Chris Taylor.

Will Smith drove in three runs for the seven-time defending NL West champion Dodgers, who opened a 3 1/2-game lead in the division by winning two of three in the matchup of the NL's two best teams.

Mookie Betts tied his career high with three stolen bases, had two hits and scored a run.

At 35-15, the Dodgers breezed into the expanded 16-team postseason field. Los Angeles is seeking its first World Series title since 1988.

San Diego has lost two straight for the first time since mid-August.

Manny Machado hit a solo homer in the eighth, his 14th of the season.

AP
Los Angeles Dodgers' Will Smith steps home, while San Diego Padres catcher Jason Castro waits for the throw in the third inning of a baseball game Wednesday, Sept. 16, 2020, in San Diego.

Nationals 4, Rays 2, 10 innings

Rookie Luis Garcia hit a two-run homer in the 10th inning and Washington beat the AL East-leading Tampa Bay.

With Carter Kieboom on second base to start extra innings, the 20-year-old Garcia hit a leadoff drive on the first pitch from Nick Anderson (1-1).

Brandon Lowe got the Rays even at 2 when he hit a solo homer off Daniel Hudson (2-2) on a 2-2 pitch with two outs in the ninth.

Kyle McGowin struck out three in the 10th to get his first save.

Athletics 3, Rockies 1

Mike Fiers threw six sharp innings before turning it over to a lights-out bullpen and Oakland snapped a six-game skid against Colorado.

Fiers (6-2) picked up the win. Liam Hendriks got the final five outs to pick up his 13th save in 14 chances.

Cardinals 4, Brewers 2, Game 1
Brewers 6, Cardinals 0, Game 2

Brent Suter and three relievers combined on a two-hitter, Ryan Braun hit his 350th career homer and Milwaukee earned a doubleheader split against St. Louis.

The Cardinals took the opener behind Adam Wainwright's four-hitter.

The Brewers scored four runs in the first inning on just one hit, the three-run homer by Braun.

Suter allowed two hits over three scoreless innings, walking two and striking out three

Reds 1, Pirates 0

Luis Castillo pitched a masterful seven innings, Shogo Akiyama drove in the game's only run, and Cincinnati extended its winning streak to a season-high five games.

Castillo (3-5) retired nine of the last 10 batters he faced and gave up only three hits and a walk with 10 strikeouts.

Royals 4, Tigers 0

Brady Singer was stellar for a second straight start, allowing two hits in six innings, and Kansas City blanked Detroit.

Singer (3-4) struck out the first five Detroit hitters and retired the first 10. He struck out eight with one walk.

Orioles 5, Braves 1

Cole Hamels finally got on the mound in an Atlanta uniform, allowing three runs to Baltimore before reaching his predetermined pitch count in the fourth inning, and the Braves struggled offensively in a loss the Orioles.

Rookie Keegan Akin struck out nine over five scoreless innings to earn his first big league victory.

Yankees 13, Blue Jays 2

Kyle Higashioka hit a career-high three home runs, DJ LeMahieu connected twice and the resurgent Yankees hit a season-best seven homers in beating Toronto.

Luke Voit lofted a three-run drive for his major league-leading 19th homer and Clint Frazier added a solo shot as the Yankees won their seventh straight game.

Marlins 8, Red Sox 4

Jorge Alfaro homered twice before he took a foul ball to his helmet and Miami beat Boston.

Garrett Cooper also homered and scored twice for Miami, which moved within 2 1/2 games of first-place Atlanta in the NL East.

Mets 5, Phillies 4

Jacob deGrom exited early from a rare rough outing because of a right hamstring spasm, but the Mets overcame a four-run deficit and rallied past Philadelphia.

Phillies reliever Hector Neris (2-2) dropped the ball on the mound for a balk that moved the go-ahead run to second base in the ninth inning.

Rangers 1, Astros 0

Kyle Gibson threw a four-hitter and Joey Gallo hit a ground-rule RBI double with two outs in the ninth inning to lift Texas over Houston.

It was the first career shutout for the 32-year-old Gibson and third complete game.

Twins 5, White Sox 1

Byron Buxton and Miguel Sano each hit a two-run homer, and Minnesota denied the White Sox a chance to clinch their first playoff berth in 12 years.

Eddie Rosario also went deep and Minnesota pitchers retired their final 18 batters against the AL Central leaders.

Cubs 3, Indians 2, 10 innings

Javier Baez's RBI single in the 10th inning lifted the Cubs to their fourth straight win.

Automatic runner Ian Happ advanced to third when Kris Bryant greeted Phil Maton (2-2) with a groundball single to open the 10th. After Anthony Rizzo was walked intentionally to load the bases, Maton fanned Willson Contreras and Kyle Schwarber. Then Baez's liner to left scored Happ.

Diamondbacks 9, Angels 6

Kole Calhoun hit his third homer in two games against his former Angels teammates, and David Peralta homered and drove in two runs in Arizona's win over Los Angeles.

Nick Ahmed had a two-run single during Arizona's four-run second inning against Dylan Bundy (5-3), who yielded five earned runs on six hits and two walks while getting chased in the third.

Giants 9, Mariners 3

Brandon Belt, Brandon Crawford and Evan Longoria homered for San Francisco, and the visiting Giants playing at home beat Seattle in a game moved to the Bay Area because of smoky, dangerous air in Western Washington.

Donovan Solano and Mauricio Dubon hit early RBI singles as the Giants snapped a three-game losing streak with a "road" victory at Oracle Park.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East	W	L	Pct	GB
Tampa Bay	31	18	.633	0.0
NY Yankees	28	21	.571	3.0
Toronto	26	22	.542	4.5
Baltimore	22	27	.449	9.0
Boston	18	32	.360	13.5
Central				
Chi White Sox	32	17	.653	0.0
Minnesot	31	20	.608	2.0
Cleveland	26	23	.531	6.0
Detroit	21	27	.438	10.5
Kansas City	21	29	.420	11.5
West				
Oakland	31	19	.620	0.0
Houston	24	25	.490	6.5
Seattle	22	27	.449	8.5
LA Angels	20	30	.400	11.0
Texas	18	31	.367	12.5

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East				
Atlanta	29	21	.580	0.0
Miami	25	22	.532	2.5
Philadelphia	24	24	.500	4.0
NY Mets	22	27	.449	6.5
Washington	18	29	.383	9.5
Central				
Chi Cubs	30	20	.600	0.0
Cincinnati	25	26	.490	5.5
St. Louis	22	23	.489	5.5
Milwaukee	23	26	.469	6.5
Pittsburgh	14	34	.292	15.0
West				
x-LA Dodgers	35	15	.700	0.0
San Diego	32	19	.627	3.5
San Francisco	24	24	.500	10.0
Colorado	22	26	.458	12.0
Arizona	19	31	.380	16.0

x- clinched playoff spot

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

No clear favorite at US Open

NEW YORK (AP)—A pretty good, yet very busy, weekend is in store for sports fans and bettors alike. Of course there's the NFL and college football in addition to the NBA and NHL playoffs. Don't forget about MLB as teams keep jockeying for playoff positioning. Last but not least it's America's championship on the links as the 2020 U.S. Open will take place at Winged Foot Golf Club.

Winged Foot is a par-70 course that only contains two par-5 holes. It's a course known for golfers putting up big numbers in part to the final five holes that are par-4's yet none shorter than 425-yards.

It should be no surprise that Dustin Johnson and Spaniard Jon Rahm are atop the tote boards with odds of +900 on PointsBet to take home the crown ($10 bet to win $90). Johnson, who is ranked first in the world, has been on a tear of late finishing no lower than 2nd place in his last 4 tournaments including a win at the Tour Championship last week.

Rahm is ranked second in the world after winning the BMW Championship last month and finishing 4th in the Tour Championship. Rounding out the top five are Justin Thomas and Xander Schauffele at +1500 and 2020 PGA Championship winner Collin Morikawa with odds of +1800.

Three-time U.S. Open winner Tiger Woods is listed at +5000. A fourth victory for Woods would tie him for the most U.S. Open titles with Jack Nicklaus, Ben Hogan, Bobby Jones and Willie Anderson. However, the 50-1 odds don't seem too far-fetched considering his best finish in the restart is tied-37th in the PGA Championship. Winged Foot is also the venue where Woods missed his first cut in a major as a pro back in the 2006 U.S. Open. Woods' odds to make the cut are at -200 ($20 bet to win $10) while to miss it are +150.

Woods isn't the only golfer who fell victim to Winged Foot. In that very same 2006 U.S. Open Phil Mickelson needed a par on 18 to win the championship. It would have been his first U.S. Open crown but instead double-bogeyed giving Geoff Ogilvy his only major victory. Mickelson has been a runner-up six times and odds are not in his favor for this weekend (+9000 - $10 bet to win $900).

For those that don't want to back a particular golfer, perhaps backing the good old USA is an option. An American golfer to win the event is at -154 followed by an Englishman at +700 and Spaniard at +750.

Panthers need to pressure 'iconic' Brady

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP)—Carolina coach Matt Rhule knows if the Panthers are to win their first game Sunday, they will have pressure "iconic quarterback" Tom Brady and not allow him to sit in the pocket and pick their defense apart.

The Panthers didn't register a sack in their season opener against the Las Vegas Raiders and barely got any pressure on Derek Carr.

"We have to come up in crucial situations and get pressure," Rhule said. "The biggest thing I took away from last week is we have guys who are more than capable but we have to be a little bit more tenacious, we have to hit pass rush moves and use our hands better. There are things we can correct.

"We have to get a four-man rush," Rhule added. "That is easier said than done."

That task will be even more difficult if Panthers defensive tackle Kawann Short is unable to play.

The two-time Pro Bowler and the veteran leader of a young defensive line sat out practice Wednesday with a foot injury. The best way to pressure Brady in the past has been to get an inside push, and without Short the Panthers could have a difficult time doing that.

AP

Tampa Bay Buccaneers quarterback Tom Brady (12) calls a play during an NFL game against the New Orleans Saints, Sunday, Sept. 13, 2020, in New Orleans.

Short is by far Carolina's most experienced defensive lineman.

The Panthers also start second-year player Brian Burns and rookies Derrick Brown and Yetur Gross-Matos on the defensive line.

Of course, a pass rush and coverage go hand-in-hand, and it doesn't help that the Panthers are also young—and a little banged up—in the secondary, too.

Rookie Troy Pride Jr. is starting at cornerback with Eli Apple out with a hamstring injury, while top cover man Donte Jackson left Sunday's game against Las Vegas in the first quarter, forcing the Panthers to play Rasul Douglas, who was claimed off waivers last week. Douglas played well, but Pride struggled at times.

Jackson returned to practice on Wednesday, which is good news for a unit that will face a talented group of Buccaneers receivers led by Mike Evans. Tampa Bay's other wide receiver, Chris Godwin, is in the concussion protocol.

The Raiders scored on six of their first eight possessions on Sunday, with 20 of Carr's 23 completions coming on throws of less than 10 yards. He put the ball in the hands of his playmakers and let them make plays.

ADE

From Page 24

tract, justifying coach Spo's move to start Adebayo over him during the second half of last season.

Whiteside would eventually get traded to the Pacific Northwest in the offseason and Adebayo's spot in the Miami Heat starting five was secure. He rewarded coach Spo's confidence in him by making his first all-star, increasing his statistical averages across the board, and even winning the Skills Challenge in the 2020 NBA All-Star Weekend. More importantly, the 6'9" banger from Kentucky (that's in shoes), has been in the forefront of Miami's resurgent season, leading the Heat back to the playoffs together with newly acquired Jimmy Butler, veteran Goran Dragic, former Division III player Duncan Robinson, and rookies Tyler Herro and Kendrick Nunn.

Miami also got some help at the trade deadline when they flipped Justise Winslow, Dion Waiters, and James Johnson for 2015 NBA Finals MVP Andre Iguodala and Jae Crowder. Of the two, the latter has been a revelation for Miami, especially in the playoff bubble in Orlando, making over 40% of his attempts from rainbow country while usually guarding the opposing team's top scorer.

The AAU atmosphere of the bubble in Orlando has obviously helped a Miami team that is a stickler for the often-repeated Pat Riley rallying cry of "Heat Culture." Sans the usual distractions inherent in any playoff run, the Heat has so far compiled the best record in the postseason, sweeping the Indiana Pacers in the first round before dispatching Giannis Antetokounmpo and the Milwaukee Bucks in five games in the second.

Which brings us now to Game 1 of the Eastern Conference Finals where Miami outlasted a young and talented Boston Celtics team in overtime. It only took some clutch buckets from Butler, the game-long brilliance of The Dragon, hot outside shooting of Crowder, and Herro posting near a triple double (12 points 11 rebounds, and 9 assists) to eke out the heart-pounding victory.

Let's face it Herro is really the Baby Goat. Making a contested pull-up jumper from 3 after Kemba Walker cooked him on the other end speaks volumes of how gutsy this kid from Kentucky is. Dragic also kept Miami from going under in the first half, hitting shots from everywhere—floaters, 3-pointers, and 1-man fast-breaks. There's no denying too that Crowder has morphed into Dale Ellis since joining the Miami Heat. The defensive stalwart is an automatic bucket from deep to complement his lockdown defense.

But the biggest play of the game—Jimmy Buckets' and-1 against Celtic star Jayson Tatum that gave the Heat a 2-point lead with 12 seconds to go in OT notwithstanding—was Adebayo's block on Tatum.

Tatum isolated against Butler and used the free throw line as a takeoff ramp for what supposed to be a game-tying tomahawk dunk. But meeting the former Duke star on the zenith of his jump was none other than Adebayo. Bam! An unstoppable force meeting an immovable object with Adebayo winning out. Laker great Magic Johnson sums it best when he said that the block was the greatest defensive play in postseason history. There might be some hyperbole in Magic's comments, but Adebayo's denial of Tatum was Bill Russell-like and ranks among the best blocks in playoff lore (remember LeBron James' block on Iguodala in Game 7 of the 2016 NBA Final and Detroit forward Tayshaun Prince's rejection of Pacer great Reggie Miller in the 2004 Eastern Conference Finals?).

For his heroics against the Celts in the dying seconds of Game 1, Adebayo from now on will be referred to as Ade-block-you in my columns (Let's see how that catches on).

Out in the west, or the other basketball court in the Orlando bubble that is, the Los Angeles Clippers exit the Orlando Bubble with their tail between their legs. As I said, the Paper Clip have no killer instinct, as witnessed by them losing leads of 16 points and 19 points in Game 5 and Game 6, respectively. And Game 7 was no different as coach Doc Rivers' team was up as much as 12 points in the first half only to collapse in the second half as the Nuggets' Dynamic Duo of Nikola Jokic and Jamal Murray proved too much for the paper tigers of the Western Conference. Jokic finished with a triple double and Murray had his best offensive game since dropping half dollars and change in two games against Utah.

The all-star duo of Kawhi Leonard and Paul George scored a measly 24 points in total in the pitiful Game 7 loss, which will hurt the next few days (or weeks if not months) for a team with championship aspirations. Chemistry problems hounded the "other" LA team the entire season and was compounded more in the bubble with the late arrivals of Leonard and George and Lou Williams and NBA Sixth Man winner Motrezk Harrell yo-yoing in and out from the NBA bubble.

The Los Angeles Lakers better not take the Denver Nuggets lightly. I dare suggest that to avoid the same fate that befell the Utah Jazz and the Paper Clips before them, the Purple and Gold should allow coach Mike Malone's team to erect a 3-1 advantage in the series. Heck, spot them 3-0 and let The King and AD make history.

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support and through these programs, we look forward to encouraging more people, especially our youth, to try our sport," NMBA president Merlie Tolentino said.

To boost Shuttle Time, NMBA is calling on interested players/coaches to sign up with the program's online component overview at https://shuttletime.bwfbadminton.com/ online-component and take the course. The virtual course will help participants understand the theoretical aspects of the Shuttle Time and familiarize themselves with the program. Upon completion of the course, participants will get a certificate and move on to join a face-to-face training course, which will be conducted by NMBA members who were designated as Shuttle Time tutors after attending a seminar in Samoa last year during the Pacific Games.

Shuttle Time offers school access to free resources, training, and equipment to support the teaching of enjoyable and safe badminton activities to students.

In December last year, NMBA held Shuttle Time at Agape Christian School, while another session (for coaches and players) took place mid this year to get them ready when it's time to reach out to students. NMBA has also initiated talks with the Public School System Student Support Services Athletics Department to coordinate the introduction of AirBadminton to both private and public schools in the CNMI.

NMBA is looking at holding the third Shuttle Time session later this month and is still finalizing plans to adhere to the safety measures that the CNMI government is implementing at this time of the pandemic.

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effort to bring back motocross, that is growing in popularity once again, to the public and provide a venue for everyone, participant, enthusiast, and audience alike to enjoy the sport," said MRA president Steve Sablan.

Sablan added that there is a substantial number of participants and audience at the temporary track set up next to the former Kan Pacific Swimming Pool.

"While we are extremely appreciative of DPL's permission to temporarily utilize the site, the sport would be better served by a site that can accommodate a better track and a better audience viewing experience. The old Cowtown site, that once served as a motocross park is perfect for this," he said.

Hunter noted that the DCCA had partnered with the MRA in the past, facilitating the motocross raceway at the former Cowtown site that was active for years.

"We really want to see this revived and we appreciate the assistance of the MRA in our effort to make this happen for the community. Gov. Torres and Lt. Gov. Palacios are also excited to see this happen again for the community and have thrown their full support behind this. The motocross has a long history in the CNMI and played a significant role in our community sports-mix for over four decades. It would not be a leap to say that motocross runs in our island blood, for those of us who grew up here in the 1970s through the '90s. These are quality family events that will be free of charge to the whole community," Hunter said.

"The people of the CNMI have always loved and supported this type of racing since the mid-1960s when riders came to Saipan and performed at the old Susupe baseball park where the Joeten-Kiyu Library is located today," Sablan said.

"As the president of the MRA, I am grateful for the partnership in the effort to see a motocross park once again and hopeful that the community be granted the request for the use of the property, so that we can realize a track and resume our activities, increase the awareness of the need to practice safe operations of all off-road vehicles, and provide our community with an exciting activity to participate in and watch," he added.

In the meantime, the public is invited to watch the motocross practice races in Marpi on Sundays. If you are interested in learning, participating, or getting involved with the MRA motocross activities, you can contact MRA vice president Cuki Alvarez at 783-4662 or MRA secretary Eleanor Cepeda at 483-0113. ***(PR)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Riders take on the temporary track course in Marpi during the practice races of Marianas Racing Association last month.

LeBron in All-NBA team for record 16th time

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Saipan Tribune
Sports

Dodgers beat Padres to clinch postseason berth

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NMI badminton to focus on school programs

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Northern Marianas Badminton Association shows samples of the AirShuttle sets and rackets it received from Badminton World Federation through Badminton Oceania.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Northern Marianas Badminton Association is using its downtime to strengthen its school program via Shuttle Time and AirBadminton.

With tournaments on hold due to the COVID-19 pandemic, NMBA is planning to hold another session of Shuttle Time and will continue to coordinate with schools for the introduction of AirBadminton. Shuttle time is Badminton World Federation's program for students in the 5 to 15 age group, while AirBadminton is the outdoor version of the sport. BWF through Badminton Oceania has recently donated AirShuttle (the especially-designed shuttlecock for indoor badminton) sets to NMBA to facilitate the introduction of the outdoor game in the Commonwealth, while the local federation also received equipment (rackets, regular shuttlecock and nets) from the two sports bodies for Shuttle Time.

"These are the two programs that we will be working on while we wait for regular tournaments to resume. We would like to thank Badminton Oceania and Badminton World Federation for their

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Marianas Racing Association vice president Cuki Alvarez makes a practice ride around the temporary motocross track set up adjacent to the former Kan Pacific Swimming Pool in Marpi.

CNMI govt looking to revive motocross park

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios have announced that the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs has been working closely with the Marianas Racing Association to revive a motocross park for the CNMI.

Senior Policy Advisor Robert Hunter, who continues to oversee DCCA, said the renewed interest in motocross has been seen over the last several years. He noted that the DCCA has been meeting with the MRA and the Department of Public Lands to look for avenues to bring the sport back on island and provide a venue for the community to safely participate and watch motocross races.

"Our government and MRA have looked at a number of different areas for the park, including the former People's Park location at Wireless Ridge and other lots in the Marpi area. The former Cowtown footprint was used for nearly a decade for the motocross activities. It is an ideal site and we are now working on acquiring a temporary designation of the site to once again host a motocross park for events. Renewed interest in motocross has really prompted Gov. Torres, Lt. Governor Palacios, and the DCCA to work with MRA to bring this back," said Hunter.

"We appreciate the partnership with the DCCA and the

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Ade-block-you

MARKSMAN
By MARK RABAGO
Associate Editor

Growing up Mark wanted to play pro basketball. When his talent and height didn't measure up, he opted for a career in journalism instead.

I was first dismayed when coach Erik Spoelstra replaced Hassan Whiteside with Bam Adebayo in the Miami Heat starting five.

The mercurial Whiteside is a walking double-double for the Heaters and is a human flyswatter around the basket if there ever was one. The 7'0" center may care more about his NBA2K rating than team success, but he was Miami's highest-paid player and was supposed to lead South Beach back to the Promised Land.

But after getting paid over $98 million for four years in 2016, the former Marshall University Thundering Herd hasn't lived up to his con-

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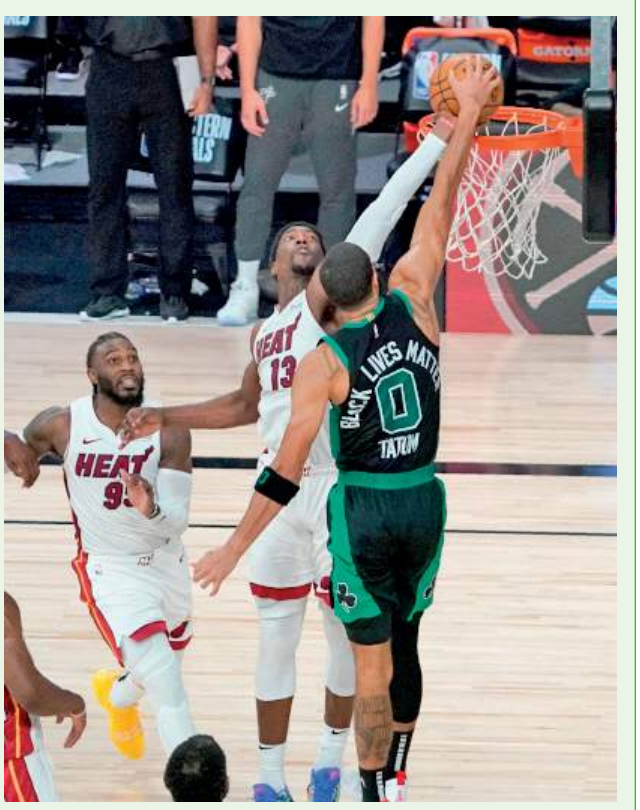

AP
Miami Heat's Bam Adebayo (13) blocks a shot attempt by the Celtics' Jayson Tatum in the closing seconds of overtime of an NBA conference final playoff game, Tuesday, Sept. 15, 2020, in Lake Buena Vista, Fla.